Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-88-016 *26 January 1988*

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Cuba

Castro Meets With Daniel Ortega in Havana

FL261229 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has met with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who made a stopover in our country en route to Spain and Italy. During his brief stay in Cuba, Daniel Ortega and the delegation accompanying him held talks with Fidel and other PCC and government comrades on various topics of international policies and bilateral relations. Manuel Pineiro, chief of the America Department of the PCC Central Committee, and other party officials joined Fidel in welcoming and seeing off the high-level Nicaraguan delegation.

Malmierca Arrives in Montevideo 24 Jan

FL251425 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca arrived in Montevideo last night from Brazil. He was received at Carrasco airport by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias. Speaking to the press, Malmierca said he would discuss international, especially regional, issues—including the Central American peace process—with Uruguayan authorities,. [passage omitted]

Guyanese Joint Cooperation Meeting Begins

FL152118 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2009 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] The exemplary trade relations between Cuba and Guyana were noted today at the opening of the 13th session of the Joint Cuban-Guyanese Economic, Scientific-Technical, and Cultural-Educational Cooperation Commission meeting.

Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, said the trade relations which began in the 1960's have progressively grown and possibilities for complementing our economies have been identified. Melendez, who is also chief of the Cuban delegation at the bilateral talks, said that trade between the two countries increased 52 percent last year.

Winston Murray, head of the Guyanese delegation and minister of trade and tourism of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, stressed the historic importance of the 15 years of diplomatic relations between the two nations.

Protocol Signed

FL202227 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] The 13th session of the Joint Cuban-Guyanese Committee for Economic, Scientific-Technical, and Cultural-Educational cooperation has ended in Havana with the signing of a cooperation protocol for 1988. The document was signed by Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and by Winston Murray, minister of Trade and Tourism of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. The agreement provides for increased cooperation in mid-level and higher education, sports, agriculture, and the sugar industry, basically in the area of sugarcane by-products.

Murray thanked Cuba for its assistance and then said:

[Begin recording of Murray, speaking in English with consecutive Spanish translation] Results have been very successful. We were able to extend our cooperation in the traditional areas. For example, we will continue to receive Cuban doctors in Guyana. We will continue to receive Cuban musicians and athletes. We will continue to have Cuban technicians who will come to help us in some of our industries. For our part, we will continue to offer Cubans the possibility of training at the University of Guyana so they can improve their English. We expect this cooperation to continue. [end recording]

Haiti

Manigat Calls for Support of Government

FL252121 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] There has been much reaction. Many people have stated their position on the election results published yesterday afternoon. The new president was appointed yesterday—announced yesterday afternoon over RTHN. He also spoke, over RTNH TV.

[Begin Manigat recording] My only (?weapon) is my energy, my patriotism, my sense of responsibility, and my capacity for self-sacrifice for Haiti.

I am a man of good will. I am a man of initiative. But I have come to power—am going to come to power—under extremely difficult conditions. The situation is a tough one. The situation is difficult.

I am extending my hand to all men of good will. I ask all Haitians of good will to collaborate with us, so that together we can serve a country in danger; and so that together we can help a people save itself, because the Haitian people are in distress.

We would like everyone to feel confident, because when I come to power, I am going to be president of all Haitians without distinction. No one will be excluded, because I am a man in favor of reconciliation and of national unity.

Therefore, I invite all who love this little corner of the world, which our ancestors fought to leave for us, to rally around my government, around the government which will take power on 7 February 1988, so we can all, together, begin the new period, the period of true democracy, in Haiti.

We are obliged, considering the situation today, to put an end to all the vile sentiments dividing us, all the envies and hatreds. Let's put all that aside, so all of us, together, through dialogue, can respond—in a way that enables us to reach agreement—to the Haitian people, which is asking for change, but change in peace, in justice, with vigor and (?in freedom). [end recording]

Election Results Given; De Ronceray Reacts
FL252330 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Ladies and Gentlemen, the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] yesterday announced the results of the elections the authorities organized for Sunday, 17 January 1988. Here is what an RTNH [Radio Tele-Diffusion Nationale d'Haiti] TV announcer said, in the name of the CEP:

[Begin recording, in progress]...since the Constitutional referendum of 29 March 1987, in which approximately 1,200,000 people voted, approximately 1 million Haitians voted in last Sunday's general elections.

According to the results of the elections, the new president of the Republic of Haiti is Mr Leslie F. Manigat, who won with a total of 534,080 votes from the nine geographical departments of Haiti. Here is the number of votes Mr Manigat received in each geographical department: North 27,449 votes; South 31,199 votes; Center 30,191 votes; Northwest 10,742 votes; Northeast 19,205; votes; Grande Anse 28,225 votes; Southeast 21,189 votes; Artibonite 175,971 votes; West 189,909 votes. These add up to a total of 534,080 votes for Mr Manigat throughout Haiti.

Mr Hubert de Ronceray came in second, after Mr Manigat, with a total of 209,526 votes.

In third place was Mr Gerard Philippe Auguste, with a total of 151,391 votes.

Immediately after the results were published, the National Government Council [CNG] sent two representatives to the residence of the president-elect. They were Ambassador Henry Bernardin and Colonel Charles Louis. They went to congratulate the president-elect of Haiti, Mr Leslie F. Manigat, on behalf of the CNG. [end recording]

That is how the RTNH announcer spoke yesterday afternoon for the CEP, which published the results of the elections the authorities organized for 17 January. [passage omitted]

Mr Marc Bazin, one of the four major Haitian opposition leaders and a former presidential candidate, in a statement to AFP yesterday, said he felt the results of the general elections were issued in a way which confirmed the unacceptable, shameful nature of the organization of these elections. The results were issued at night, furtively, and with suspicious haste, he stressed.

We know there were not a million voters, he said. The maximum there could have been would be some 200,000. But we must salute the skill of those who put out the figures; because by giving Mr Manigat a tiny bit over 50 percent, they declared him the victor on the first ballot, without making his little buddies look totally ridiculous, said Bazin. [passage omitted]

MDN [Mobilization for National Development] President Hubert de Ronceray also said he felt these elections were extremely shameful.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr Hubert de Ronceray, the results of the 17 January elections were made public yesterday afternoon. Radio Soleil would like to have, for its listeners, your reaction to these results.

[De Ronceray] For me the results are truly scandalous, unacceptable. Because we of the MDN pointed out to the CEP a number of irregularities and fraud, which we asked it to correct immediately; but the CEP ignored us. And to our great surprise and to the surprise of the population concerned, a series of figures totally contrary to what the population had said were put out. According to reports we received from the polling stations themselves, for example, there are places we know we were at 40,000 and we note that they claim we got 5,000 or 8,000 votes there and so forth. At other places, they said we were at such-and-such a figure and now the figure has changed, etc. It is all these things which make us say, upon seeing these scandalous figures: Ok, that's enough.

The population has asked us to support their demands, their demonstrations; because they themselves say they will not accept this coup d'etat.

[Reporter] You spoke of the figures, Mr De Ronceray. Do you feel that these figures are totally false figures, figures which do not exist? Do you mean that not that many people voted? Or are the figures valid, but attributed to the wrong president, valid figures which do not represent the number of votes won by the president-elect?

[De Ronceray] Listen, they are totally fictitious figures. Because everyone noted, for example, there are figures for Leslie Manigat in the Artibonite [laughs] [changes thought] Where did Leslie Manigat get 175,000 votes out of the (?171,000) there really are in the Artibonite? Go ask the people in the Artibonite when they voted. They will tell you they know nothing of this. They had put

down 75,000 and decided it was not enough. Two days later they put a 1 in front of the figure and made it 175,000. It's like that all over. [passage omitted]

We know that Manigat partisans went back to the polling stations in the Southeast to ask for a recount because the Southeast protested. It had given its figures and declared it would not allow its figures to be changed. [passage omitted]

They put down whatever they felt like putting down, because they needed to give Leslie Manigat a victory one way or another.

[Reporter] Mr de Ronceray, if you were to ask for something today, would you ask that the elections be annulled, despite the fact that the results have already been proclaimed? Would you ask the elections be annulled because they were not good at all. There are people who felt, basing themselves on what you said in interviews, you might prefer to have them issue a result favorable to you, despite the irregularities pointed out in the elections.

[De Ronceray] No, there is a difference between demanding that certain irregularities in particular areas be corrected and asking that the elections be annulled. We cannot ask the people to mess around forever. We decided to take the country to elections. The population agreed to participate in elections. The people participated in elections on 29 November. They were shot at, killed, wounded. The people resigned themselves to taking a second chance and went to the 17 January elections. It took the risk of voting nationwide a second time.

The people did its civic duty. It's their desire, their decision that must therefore be respected.

Now, we pointed out serious irregularities in certain places. These irregularities should have been corrected. [passage omitted]

We were not in favor of the elections annulment, but rather in favor of the indispensable, necessary rectification wherever there was fraud. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Some people think you wanted the irregularities that you were asking about to be corrected to your benefit. Is that true?

[De Ronceray] It is not a matter of it being done to my benefit. It is a matter of having what really happened respected, not necessarily in my favor. There are many other candidates in my same position. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Mr de Ronceray, do the results of the elections constitute a disappointment to you?

[De Ronceray] Listen, it is not merely a disappointment. It is scandalous. For me, these results constitute a very hard blow to the young, nascent, Haitian democracy; and I guarantee you, my friend, that the country is not going to take this coup lying down.

[Reporter] In view of this disappointment, do you not regret participating?

[De Ronceray] No, not at all. Because the battle I am waging is not a battle I am waging for myself. I am defending principles, norms, a democratic process. I am doing this for the country, not for myself. Hubert de Ronceray will pass on, but the Haitian people will remain and there are conquests that are for the country, and not for Hubert de Ronceray.

[Reporter] You had said you were awaiting the results of the elections in order to take action. Do you still feel this way?

[De Ronceray] Listen, I have already announced, already informed the authorities—the Armed Forces, the police forces—that the population in the different parts of the country has asked me to have the MDN support demonstrations. We have said that we will support demonstrations, but we ask the population of the different areas to remain within the party's principles—that is, don't throw rocks, don't start fires, don't commit any violent acts. We ask them in each area to remind the authorities that we asked for the security the law provides and the watchwords are discipline, vigilance, and the determination to have everyone say no, but in a disciplined manner and without violence.

[Reporter] One last question: If by chance you were to be offered the position of prime minister, would you change your mind?

[De Ronceray] Listen, friend, everyone knows what role I played in the overthrow of the dictatorship of Jean-Claude Duvalier. I struggled to have the country become a democracy through the ballot. I will not today kneel before a new dictatorship they have come to impose on us. So, MDN will not recognize a government resulting from this coup d'etat. Consequently, you can forget about collaboration.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr de Ronceray.

[De Ronceray] Thank you. [end recording]

CEH, Protestant Churches Criticize Elections

FL252250 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Well before the 17 January election results were published, the Episcopal Conference of Haiti [CEH] and the Protestant Federation of Churches strongly criticized, during a religious service at [Petit Seminaire]

College Saint-Martial, the way in which the elections were held, and they called for dialogue to solve the country's current crisis. Rothschild?

[Rothschild] Indeed, (Ketly). The CEH, which is the administrative body of the powerful Haitian Catholic Church, and the Haitian Federation of Protestant Churches both severely criticized, Saturday afternoon in Port-au-Prince, the way the recent general elections in Haiti had been held and the organizations called for dialogue to get the country out of its current crisis.

The Haitian religious authorities spoke before a crowd of approximately 3,000 people, among them many enthusiastic young people, in the courtyard of College Saint-Martial during an ecumenical service for the unity of the Haitian people and for the defense of Haiti's new Constitution.

Many political leaders attended this ceremony, including Marc Bazin, Sylvio Claude, Louis Dejoie, and Gerard Gourgue, the four members of the Committee for Democratic Agreement which is the main Haitian opposition force.

Also participating in the ceremony were Rene Theodore, secretary general of the Haitian Communist Party, and Mr Louis E. Roy, president of the Association for the Defense of the Constitution and a leader of the MOVELH, the Voluntary Movement for Free and Honest Elections in Haiti, who was detained by authorities for 2 hours on Friday upon returning from a trip abroad.

In a message read by Msgr Joseph Lafontant, auxiliary bishop of Port-au-Prince, the CEH said it felt the 17 January elections had not been free elections nor had they been serious elections. The Haitian bishops denounced votes cast by children and madmen, multiple vote-casting by the same person, and the absence of a secret ballot.

The bishops also denounced a campaign waged against the church, the arrest of many people in Haiti on the pretext that they were campaigning against the elections, and the persecution and arrest of peasant group leaders, presbyterial and pastoral authorities, and Misyon Alfa group leaders. Misyon Alfa is the Catholic Church's literacy program.

Stressing that the Haitian people, which wants nothing more to do with dictatorships, could find itself tempted to use violent means to arrive more quickly at a true democracy, the bishops strongly warned those who might be tempted to use violence, which they said would be a calamity that would destroy the country. They also renewed their call for dialogue among all parties concerned in order to resolve the crisis.

Priests Call for Annulment of Elections

FL252251 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] A ceremony was held yesterday in Gonaives to ordain a new priest. Thus there is a new priest in the fraternity of priests in the Artibonite, in the service of the faithful.

The church has met the greatest difficulties recently in the Artibonite. There are many parishes where the priests are not safe. They have been obliged to flee.

A group of priests from the Artibonite present at yesterday's ordination ceremony at the cathedral of Gonaives delivered a message of solidarity to the faithful assembled for that ceremony.

Their message says: Today, 24 January 1988, on the occasion of the ordination of our brother (Delix Michel), we priests present at this ceremony declare we are members of the Haitian people. We are partisans of the faithful. We are priests and the collaborators of the bishops. We are priests in both good times and bad. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is our guide.

Therefore, we must say, so everything will be clear to the faithful, to the Haitian people, and to foreign peoples: The so-called elections of 17 January 1988 are an unconstitutional action. The Haitian people really didn't participate in them! Not even 5 out of every 100 people voted here in the Artibonite. There was much fraud. These were rigged elections. The results were calculated in advance.

For this reason, we completely support the statement issued by our bishops and the Protestant Federation of Churches and the message by the clergy.

We raise our voices in unison with those of the entire Haitian people, who have been struggling for democracy for a long time, to ask that these false elections be annulled; and to ask that the Constitution be applied 100 percent, so we can get out of this current crisis.

We declare with all our might: We do not want a dictatorship. We want to live freely, like children of God, in this land of Haiti that God has given us. We declare our solidarity with all the victims in the Artibonite and everywhere else; with all democrats and all the young people who have had to go into hiding; with all who have lost their homes and all their belongings (?and have had to go live) during this difficult period, with all the peasants—who, in turn, have lost their harvests, have had to flee, and, in addition to all this, are unable to plant their lands this season.

Let's get together to form a single body, so we can help all these people resume their rightful places.

That was the message of the priests from the Artibonite.

Carnival Group Attacks PDCH Headquarters

FL252215 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Yesterday afternoon there was an incident in front of the Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] headquarters when a carnival group called (Hosanana) stoned the party's headquarters. PDCH members also reported shots being fired.

They say that the carnival group started at the the bottom of Rue St Honore. When it arrived in front of the Dessalines Barracks it stopped and spent a good while there dancing and otherwise amusing itself. Then it came directly to the PDCH headquarters, where it began to stone the party headquarters and to shoot.

We will hear the testimony of several PDCH members. There was a meeting going on inside and someone was seriously hurt.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Witness] It was a well-prepared thing. The group, when it arrived in front of the barracks, began purposely singing songs against the government, against Manigat, and against Franck Romain. However, we know that it is Franck Romain who gave the group 10 thousand gourdes...

[Reporter interrupting] What barracks? The Dessalines Barracks?

[Witness] Yes, exactly. Franck Romain paid 10 thousand gourdes to put the group out into the street. It is led by a man named (Ti Badou). [passage omitted] [end recording]

This morning when we contacted Mr Franck Romain, he told us he did not know anything about these accusations against him.

A 22 January PDCH news release said it received reports that several carnival bands were being paid by the government to go out on the streets on the day the 17 January election results were proclaimed so that these groups could cause disorders and at the same time make it look as if people were happy with the results of those elections. The PDCH said it wanted to remind the Haitian people and the entire world that the people responsible for these demonstrations were the same people who had plunged the country into mourning in the past and up to the present, despite the Haitian people's on-going struggle to effect change in Haiti.

Price of Isthmus Oil Increased 30 U.S. Cents

FL221403 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0545 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Mexico City, 22 January [NOTIMEX]—To bring the price of Mexican oil in line with others of similar grade, the Foreign Trade Committee for Oil has agreed to increase the price of Isthmus light oil by 30 U.S. cents a barrel. This oil is sold on the American continent. PEMEX said this price increase would be implemented 1 February.

The state oil company said the contractual formulas used to fix prices for Maya oil in America and for both types of oil in Europe were not changed and prices for the Far East will be set in early February.

PEMEX said in a news release that crude oil sales on the American continent comprised 43 percent of the total amount of oil exported in 1987. Most of these purchases are made by the United States; the rest is bought by the San Jose Pact countries and Uruguay, as well as other clients. Approximately 25,000 barrels of Isthmus oil is sold in the region.

Economic Solidarity Pact Evokes Reactions

New Group Demonstrates

PA161429 Paris AFP in Spanish 0312 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Mexico City 13 Jan (AFP)—Today, approximately 60,000 persons took to the streets and peacefully demonstrated in the center of the city. They were protesting the Mexican Government's austerity measures aimed at solving the country's economic crisis.

The march was organized by the newly created Independent Popular Movement [Movimiento Popular Independiente] (MPI). It went from the important Reform Avenue to the National Palace in Constitution Square. There the speakers attacked the government's economic plans and asked that the payment of the foreign debt be suspended.

"The last year of the Miguel de la Madrid administration has begun with facts that clearly show the Mexican system's economic and social deterioration," the MPI manifesto stated. The MPI is made up of independent groups of workers, students, and residents of low income neighborhoods. [passage omitted]

The 100-percent increase of mass transit fares immediately unleashed a rise in prices. These increases have not been offset by wage increases.

The MPI document noted that "the noose is getting tighter. We refuse to continue paying for the mistake of different administrations that have led the country to bankruptcy."

The demonstration ended without incident. It was the first major demonstration against the Economic Solidarity Pact [PSE]. According to the organizers of the march, it is part of a strategy to make the people "feel" the failure of the government's economic policy.

On Sunday close to 300 labor, students, peasant, and neighborhood groups joined a "National Front To Oppose the Pact." They announced that they will demonstrate all over the country to "reject" the government.

Some observers expect a "heating up" of the country's political climate. This could cause problems in July when 37 million voters will cast their votes to elect the successor to President Miguel de la Madrid for a new 6-year period.

Petricioli Supports Measures

FL171538 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1640 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Mexico City, 15 January, (NOTIMEX)—Gustavo Petricioli, Mexican finance and public credit secretary, has said the state has not renounced its economic policy by signing the PSE and it is necessary to take the appropriate measures.

In an interview with a group of journalists—20 women and 1 man—Petricioli said the PSE will not fail and in the worst case, the state will act in accordance with the Constitution. He also denied that there would be an abrupt devaluation of the peso, bank accounts would be frozen, and capital flight would occur.

The PSE has no reason to fail because the majority of measures it includes have already been taken and others are being prepared. Any defects in the pact would be corrected during its implementation.

The finance secretary said that monetary reform currently is not being considered. This could be useful and convenient once inflation has been brought under control. We will see what types of reforms will be introduced in the meantime, he said.

In reference to the foreign debt, Petricioli said Mexico will make an offer to the international financial community during the second half of the year on the discount the nation would like, and will accept nothing that would harm the country.

The finance secretary also denied during the interview that rates would be increased for taxpayers. He added that the number of taxpayers would be increased and the country would come down hard on tax evaders.

In reference to the sale of parastate industries, Petricioli said that this in no way weakens the state because only nonpriority enterprises will be sold and their finances for the urgent needs of the population will be strengthened.

The PSE, he continued, has a strong basis for fighting inflation. We observed the so-called crash programs [planes de choque] of other countries but they did not seem convenient, he said. Freezing prices would only create injustice and then we would confront a strong recession, Petricioli added. The plan is adapted to our own needs; it is our creation and we count on very high internal reserves to improve it, the finance secretary said.

All other remarks are rumors intended to create confusion, Petricioli said. The pact has no reason to fail, he said, because in March we will make a great effort to measure inflation and we will reduce it each month. It will not be easy, he added, but it is better to take a concerted action and not a unilateral one, he said.

The finance secretary said that instead of thinking of failures, one must think positively and demonstrate that Mexicans can work together, despite ideologies and differences.

Labor Notes Negative Effects

PA230025 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 11 Jan 88 p 3

[Text] The National Federation of Labor Organizations [Federacion Nacional de Agrupaciones Sindicales] charged yesterday that although the PSE has only been in effect for 3 weeks, it has already had four negative effects on the workers: recession, unemployment, shortages, and profiteering in the food industry.

In its weekly news bulletin, the group said that "the federal, state and municipal governments are dismissing personnel left and right, both temporary and full-time workers," as one way of making budget cuts.

The statement adds that with regard to the food industry, businessmen have decided to hoard items while public stores lack all kinds of basic products, creating shortages and leading to price-gouging.

The FNAS adds that the working sector does not have the recourse of requesting emergency wage increases, because one of the provisions of the pact is that, effective March, wages will rise in proportion with the rate of inflation.

This is why the FNAS claims that it is urgent to change some aspects of the pact to give workers a means of self-defense. In fact, it demanded that the 20-percent increase in the minimum wage that went into effect 1 January be extended to all wage levels in the country.

Once again, the FNAS, which is led by Samuel Ruiz Mora, said that the pact is "criminal," because it seeks to combat inflation "on the backs and empty stomachs of the Mexican workers."

Zedillo Assesses

PA230440 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 11 Jan 88 p 7

[Article by Maria de Jesus Espinosa; all figures, dates as published]

[Text] Planning and Budget Under Secretary Ernesto Zedillo has said that although the PSE does not plan for a recession, the fiscal and monetary contraction measures the authorities have taken will have a negative impact on the economy. However, he noted, these measures will lower inflation to 70 percent, and this is helpful.

Zedillo admitted there is skepticism and a lack of trust regarding the Pact but he said that as soon as the initial results are known, this attitude will change.

The official said the public sector will make severe adjustments to meet the 1988 budget, which calls for a 6-percent cut in spending and a 7-percent increase in revenues.

As a result of this adjustment, expenditures will represent 20 percent of the GNP and revenues 31.2 percent.

The official said that during the current administration, expenditures have been slowly reduced. In 1982, they represented 28 percent of the GNP; in 1983, 24.3 percent; in 1984, 23.5 percent; in 1985, 23 percent; in 1986, 22.1 percent; in 1987, 22 percent; and only 20.5 percent in 1988.

Zedillo said that as part of the Pact it is essential for the state to let go of parastate enterprises, and for this reason the sale of those enterprises will be speeded up.

He explained that the 1988 budget calls for a reduction of 2.4 trillion pesos in authorized transfers and most of this—600 billion pesos—will go to the energy and parastate industrial sectors. [sentence as published]

Zedillo denied that the public sector has increased its staff to the point that there are now between three and four times more employees than before. He said the bureacracy is mostly concentrated in the education and health sectors. He said there will be reductions that will affect trusted personnel. Zedillo noted that 20 January is the deadline for government offices to submit their budgets.

He said that if they fail to do so, his office may reduce costs in some areas if, according to its judgment, this is appropriate to fight inflation and avoid obstacles to productivity.

Meanwhile, Francisco Gil Diaz, director of the Economic Studies Office of the Bank of Mexico, has stated that the country will continue to have a $2.4 billion positive foreign trade balance since it has been estimated

that oil exports will total $13 billion. This will allow currency exchange rate to stabilize although the value of the peso will drop slightly throughout the year.

Unions Propose Plebiscite

PA250215 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 15 Jan 88 p 11

[Rebeca Hernandez Marin report]

[Excerpts] During a meeting at the end of a march organized by the National Front of Resistance to the Pact [Frente Nacional de Resistencia al Pacto], the Trade Union Agreement Board proposed a national plebiscite on 12 and 13 February so the Mexican people—in a direct, personal, and secret vote—can decide whether the country should go ahead with the PSE.

The meeting was brief, with only two speakers. Alfredo Dominguez of the Trade Union Agreement Board was the first to speak. He asked the Front's organizers to send a note to President Miguel de la Madrid demanding a plebiscite. The other speaker was Bulmaro Castellanos, who spoke in behalf of the Front, saying the PSE is not legitimate because it was not signed by the people.

The march, which began at 1600, started at four different points in the city. [passage omitted] Police estimated that approximately 12,000 to 15,000 people participated in the demonstration, while the organizers said there were 60,000 to 80,000 people.

The atmosphere was festive. The Trolebus rock group began playing at 1700 and was followed by the Botellita de Jerez group. The two bands played songs mentioning how "the system has f—ed us." Nonetheless, students and workers danced to the music.

Yesterday's march was the second demonstration against the PSE. Among the organizations that participated were the Mexican Socialist Party, the Revolutionary Workers' Party, the Zapatistas Workers [Trabajadores Zapatistas], the Democratic Current, the CEU [University Student Council], the CAU [not further identified], the Conamup [Popular Urban Movement National Coordinating Board], the CIOAC [Independent Central Organization of Agricultural Workers and Peasants], and many other groups.

At the end of the protest, the organizers of the National Front of Resistance to the Pact called for a national demonstration on 11 February. The organizers also announced that on 28 January, the universities will stage a 24-hour strike, while teachers will do the same on 29 January to protest the PSE and to demand better salaries.

El Salvador

Humanitarian Groups Condemn Army Attack

PA250302 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1756 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Humanitarian organizations opposed to the Salvadoran Government today "condemned" the Army attack against a shelter for war refugees sponsored by the Catholic Church and located in northern San Salvador.

The Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero Federation of Committees of Mothers and Relatives of Political Prisoners and of Missing and Murdered People (FECMAFAN) today stated that the Army last Sunday [17 January] "violated the Geneva Convention when it attacked" the Main Street shelter for civilians displaced from their homes by the war. This shelter cannot be regarded as a military target.

The Salvadoran Church had reported the Army's attack on the shelter, in which one refugee was wounded. Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas said the church and the Army will begin investigations to determine the causes of this incident.

The Christian Committee for the Displaced Persons of El Salvador (CRIPDES) held a demonstration in downtown San Salvador today to "denounce and condemn" the Army attack on the refugee shelter.

In a preliminary report on the incident, the Salvadoran Army commented that the shooting was "provoked by terrorists living in the house who began firing to provoke the Army patrols in the surrounding areas.

In its report to the High Command, which was published today by a local daily, the 1st Infantry Brigade maintains there are FMLN men and women in the shelter. The Army has reported on several occasions that FMLN guerrillas are at the Main Street shelter. However, the refugees and the Catholic Church have denied these reports and have instead stated that only civilians are at this refugee center.

Venceremos Terms Contras 'Obstacle' to Peace

PA220423 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Station commentary: "The Contras, the Major Obstacle to Esquipulas II"]

[Text] Central American countries are demonstrating three clear positions toward the Esquipulas process. The first is the Nicaraguan position: There will be peace in Central America when the self-determination of the peoples is respected, when U.S. meddling ends, and most importantly, when social injustice disappears.

The second position is that of Costa Rica and Guatemala. They advocate a relative neutrality toward conflicts in other countries. They are also more inclined to respect the self-determination of the peoples mainly by struggling to prevent war from spreading to their countries.

The third position is the one shared by Engineers Azcona and Duarte. Their policy is to not have a policy of their own. They are instead virtually Spanish spokesmen for the Reagan administration.

Five months have passed since the Esquipulas II agreement was signed, and peace has not yet been attained in Central America. Why have we not achieved peace? Although the United States accuses Nicaragua of behaving in a warmongering manner and claims that it is a threat to U.S. national security, it is evident that the Sandinist government is not interested in war but rather in developing socioeconomic plans to help its people.

A revolution tries to improve the living standards of the people, not to wage war. Nicaragua needs and wants peace, and it is trying to achieve peace. However, the United States refuses to leave Nicaragua alone, and it has the contras on its side. The contras are not a puppet army but rather a division of the U.S. Army that includes mercenaries of Nicaraguan origin.

There would be peace in Nicaragua if the contras did not exist and if the bourgeois political opposition had all the political space it needed. The bourgeoisie will face the problem of convincing the Nicaraguan people that it is better to return land to the landholders and factories to the exploiters.

Without the contras, a national solution to the Salvadoran conflict would be much more feasible since an end to U.S. meddling in Nicaragua would also mean an end to U.S. meddling in our country. Honduras would not face the problem of contra camps on its territory, and tension on the northern border of Costa Rica would disappear.

The truth is that there are contra camps in Honduras and Costa Rica despite the hypocritical charges of Honduras and Costa Rica that Nicaragua has failed to comply with the Esquipulas accords. The truth is that planes loaded with weapons for the contras continue to arrive at the El Aguacate airstrip in Honduras. The truth is that Radio 15 September is broadcasting from El Picacho Hill in Tegucigalpa, Honduras; that Radio Liberacion is broadcasting from El Salvador; and that Radio Impacto, which is a contra radio station, broadcasts from Costa Rica.

Someone could argue that if all countries comply with Esquipulas II, the FMLN would be affected. However, the FMLN has no airstrips, camps, or radio stations, as well as much smaller military (?forces) than other countries. This is why Duarte wants our front's political representatives thrown out of Nicaragua, Panama, [word indistinct], and other countries.

The exile of several Salvadorans does not have the same [words indistinct] as in Honduras and Costa Rica. What Napoleon Duarte wants is ridiculous. It is virtually identical to telling other countries: [words indistinct]. The fact that the contras, with $270 million and sophisticated arms, are achieving little in Nicaragua while the FMLN, with popular weapons and a close link to the people, is keeping the Duartist regime on the brink of collapse shows that the Sandinist government is strong while Duarte's is weak.

The propaganda minister is trying to draw analogies between the situations in Nicaragua and El Salvador. The contras have surface-to-air missiles, which is a proven fact that no one denies. This explains why Viera [minister of culture and communications] is saying that the FMLN also possesses those missiles. This is a charge that has not been proven, because the FMLN has not fired surface-to-air missiles.

Therefore, the problem blocking the path to peace in Central American is not the Nicaraguan Government or the revolutionary forces. Rather, it is the existence of the contras. This is the same as saying that U.S. meddling is designed to maintain the structural social injustice that prevails in the region. In sum, injustice is the cause of conflicts. The inclination of the Sandinist government toward peace was reflected in Nicaragua's stand at the San Jose meeting. This left the United States with a desire to legitimize a possible future destruction of the Sandinist people's revolution by accusing Nicaragua of violating peace agreements.

In keeping with this, all Reagan administration spokesmen, in both English and Spanish, are targeting their accusations solely and exclusively at Nicaragua. Nicaragua is now showing us that it really desires peace; that it really wants to channel all its energy to health, education, and housing programs for the people. This is reflected in Nicaragua's offer to free Somozist Guardsmen and counterrevolutionaries—who are responsible for many crimes against the people—in exchange for a dignified and lasting peace.

Rosa Chavez Homily on San Jose Peace Talks

PA241323 San Salvador Television Nacional in Spanish 1400 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Sunday homily delivered by Gregorio Rosa Chavez, auxiliary bishop of San Salvador; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In the first 3 days of the week, the 10 bishops who presently compose the Episcopal Conference of El Salvador held a meeting. After discussing important matters related to the life of the church, we then turned to several of the nation's problems. [passage omitted]

In that regular meeting of the Salvadoran episcopate, we discussed matters related to national life, such as the electoral campaign that began this week with the appearance of the first advertisements of certain political parties.

In this regard, the bishops maintain our position of support for the electoral process. This is because it is a key component in the consolidation of democracy. We also discussed what we expect of the political leaders, and the fact that their propaganda should be moderate in tone, to avoid adding an overtone of violence to the very difficult climate in which this new year begins. [passage omitted]

It is clear that laymen can freely choose any political program they wish, but they should do so on the basis of the fundamental and unyielding choice of Jesus Christ, within a framework of respect for those who choose to do otherwise. This is because politics cannot be considered to be absolute, with one group ascribing to itself the whole truth. [passage omitted]

We have prayed a great deal over the past 2 days for the meeting of Central American presidents, which ended in San Jose yesterday with encouraging results. [words indistinct]

In his traditional meeting with the diplomatic corps accredited to the Vatican, Pope John Paul II, in making a pastoral assessment of the international situation, described the Esquipulas II peace plan as something that at last gives us room for hope. The pope also called for solutions that will benefit the people.

According to the latest reports, [words indistinct] the presidents committed themselves to fully implementing the accords. However, all Salvadorans must pray for peace and work for it. [Words indistinct] we have recalled the pain that different forms of violence have daily caused to numerous Salvadoran families. The latest war reports state, for example, that 16 people have been killed—among them there was a [words indistinct] officer from Mesa Grande who was assassinated by the guerrillas.

This is just a small example of reality. I could add numerous cases of anonymous threats, extortion, blackmail, and violations—not to mention kidnappings and the various forms of terrorism. Therefore, it is necessary for us to work for peace, but not at any price. We must respect man's weaknesses and sacred rights.

This year we will continue to pray to the queen of peace, the patron of El Salvador. [passage omitted]

D'Aubuisson Reports 'Plot' Against His Life

PA222211 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 21 Jan 88 p 7

[Text] Major Roberto D'Aubuisson Arieta, ranking leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) Party and its candidate for deputy in La Libertad Department, has reported a "plot against his life."

D'Aubuisson told newsmen yesterday, after opening the local party headquarters in Santa Tecla, he had learned of a plot to kill him. This plan would involve an "alleged FMLN commando, comprised of three men and two women, which would come from Los Angeles, California."

According to the major, Dr Armando Calderon Sol, also an ARENA party leader, was alerted to the plot on 30 December by a diplomatic source whose identity was not revealed. D'Aubuisson learned of the plot through a security official the same day.

D'Aubuisson dismissed the possibility that his would-be killers belong to the FMLN, arguing that "if Ungo and Zamora want to participate in the democratic process, it is illogical for the FMLN to try to carry out an attack."

"Furthermore," he said, "I learned through third parties that the FMLN will not kill political leaders who participate in the current electoral process."

FMLN Occupies Radio Stations, Airs Message

PA241830 [Editorial Report] San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish on 23 January on page 7 reports that "at 1200 on 22 January, an FMLN urban commando occupied Radio El Mundo, Radio Clasica, Radio Cadena Central, and Radio 1080 to broadcast subversive messages."

San Salvador Radio Cadena Central at 1810 GMT on 22 January is heard carrying a recorded message with fair reception, starting with the FMLN's theme song and followed by an unidenfied speaker who says, "Attention, pay close attention: This is a communique from the FMLN urban military units. Through this political-military action, our General Command sends fraternal and combative greetings to all the exploited and oppressed people, to all those people who with their firm and consistent actions, are unmasking and defeating the antidemocratic and counterrevolutionary plans and objectives against our people promoted by U.S. imperialism through the puppet Army and the slavish and submissive Christian Democratic Party [PDC] government headed by servile Jose Napoleon Duarte."

The recording continues with a summary of the most outstanding actions the FMLN carried out in 1987. That year was described as "a year of victories for the people and their vanguard, the FMLN," one that resulted in the "puppet Army suffering more than 9,000 casualties."

Further on, the communique states that "in August, the PDC and Duarte tried to take advantage of the Esquipulas II agreement to reverse their critical situation by inviting us to a dialogue, under the condition that we lay down our arms and totally accept the Esquipulas II accords." The message adds that "even against their will, they had to accept a dialogue with the FMLN and the FDR in San Salvador, which clearly demonstrated our political and military power. This also demonstrated that we are a real force that represents the true interests of the Salvadoran people."

The message continues by calling for the people's unity around their vanguard, the FMLN.

The last part of the communique states: "We warn the repressive structures of the government and the Armed Forces, as well as of Yankee imperialism, that we will not hesitate to strictly enforce popular and revolutionary justice in reply to the repressive actions and terrorism carried out against the people."

Honduras

Mexican Envoy Departs Due to U.S. 'Pressure'

PA222336 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Report by Miriam Mercado]

[Text] Mexican Ambassador to Honduras Francisco Correa Villalobos will leave the country next week due to pressure by the U.S. Embassy. This was confirmed by diplomatic sources. Correa Villalobos arrived in Tegucigalpa in 1985 and presented his credentials to Roberto Suazo Cordova, the president at that time. It has been confirmed that Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid has appointed Correa Villalobos general director of the UN Directorate of the Mexican Foreign Secretariat.

Sources in Tegucigalpa report that, for the time being, Mexico will not appoint an ambassador. Mr Jose Ibarra will serve as charge d'affaires for the diplomatic mission. He has broad diplomatic experience, and is an expert on Latin America and asylum rights. He will arrive in Tegucigalpa next week.

The obstacles to Mexico's pacifist role are not simply limited to campaigns unleashed in Washington. This campaign also has an impact in Honduras, which is a key country for the U.S. Administration's warmongering policies in Latin America.

We will report briefly on the origin of Mexico's problems in Honduras. In 1985, the local press reported that former Minister of the Presidency Carlos Flores had a heated discussion with Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda. This took place when the foreign secretary, who had come as a member of the Contadora Group, visited President Roberto Suazo Cordova in La Paz. Mexico at that time withdrew its ambassador,

Plutarco Albarran, and kept a very low-level mission here. Correa Villalobos did not arrive as Mexico's ambassador until several months or nearly 1 year after that incident.

Relations between Honduras and Mexico were again dealt a harsh blow in 1986. As everyone recalls, Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo harshly criticized the Mexican system of government during an interview with correspondent Regino-Diaz Redondo of the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR. Moreover, it is believed that Honduras' relations with Mexico have become stormy since Honduras is not exactly an independent country. According to charges by several Honduran organizations, U.S. national security policy is strictly implemented here. The Mexican Embassy in Tegucigalpa is the only diplomatic mission that grants political asylum in Honduras. There are presently no more missing persons in this country because extrajudicial executions are now carried out. The Honduran Human Rights Committee, CODEH, has made this accusation.

In addition, diplomatic sources report that the Honduran Armed Forces and the U.S. Government have been greatly annoyed by some cases involving requests for asylum, as happened with Alfonso Guerrero Ulloa, who sought refuge at the Mexican Embassy in September 1987. Honduran officials and the U.S. Embassy accused Guerrero Ulloa of planting a bomb in Comayagua in September. Several U.S. officers and several Honduran civilians were injured in this incident. Alex Armando Castro, at that time a member of the Liberal Revolutionary Democratic Movement, M-Lider, told a judge that he had been tortured to force him to implicate Guerrero Ulloa in that attack. The U.S. State Department ignored Guerrero Ulloa's remarks following that incident and influenced strongly conservative U.S. senators to issue a resolution accusing Mexico of harboring terrorists.

According to news dispatches datelined in Washington, the Mexican Government replied by issuing a communique denying any U.S. influence over a matter exclusively involving Mexico and Honduras. Meanwhile, Honduran Government sources confirmed that top military officers are very annoyed because some weeks ago, Zoila Marina Rodriguez, Santiago Reyes, and Victoria Martinez Cubas received asylum at the Mexican Embassy in Tegucigalpa. The Honduran police had been seeking them in connection with the Aurora neighborhood incident in San Pedro Sula. This event occurred in September 1987 on the country's northern coast.

This concludes our report on the withdrawal of Mexican Ambassador Francisco Correa Villalobos. He arrived in Tegucigalpa in 1985, and according to sources, he will leave next week. Mexico will only retain a charge d'affairs at its embassy.

Azcona Criticizes San Jose News Conferences

PA251535 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Jan 88 c

[Article by Faustino Ordonez Baca]

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa—"I believe the news conferences undermined the solemnity of the act, and that these were an abuse by the presidents," President Jose Azcona Hoyo said yesterday in response to criticism for being the only president to refuse to comment following the Costa Rican summit held the previous weekend.

Immediately following the Costa Rican meeting, the presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica mounted a podium before dozens of local and foreign reporters to give their views on the results of the summit. The absence of the Honduran president caused surprise.

Azcona Hoyo said there was a previous agreement to withhold statements from the media. He thus implied that his colleagues had violated an agreement.

"It was an abuse to use a forum intended for a joint declaration. Each president should have given his statement privately, as was the case with Esquipulas II," Azcona Hoyo noted.

Azcona stressed that it is "contradictory to make a joint statement and then to make individual statements."

When asked if he did not speak because he feared reporters, Azcona replied: "I will never be afraid of the press." He then stressed that he entered through the front door, unlike "others who entered through the back door."

As is known, the Nicaraguan president avoided the press covering the summit by traveling by bus and unexpectedly entering the meeting place through a different door. [passage omitted]

Government Rejects Rights Officials' Comments

PA241440 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Communique from the Information and Press Directorate of the Honduran Foreign Affairs Secretariat, issued in Tegucigalpa on 20 January]

[Text] The government of the Republic has learned with surprise about the public statements made by (Claudio Broadman) and Juan Mendez, lawyers of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission [IAHRC]. The statements were published in the daily LA TRIBUNA on 20 January.

The two lawyers, who have filed charges against Honduras with the IAHRC for alleged past violations, have themselves violated a basic principle in national and international procedural law: Legal matters should not be aired in the press, but rather in court or before the proper authorities.

The fact that the Honduran Government asked the court to hear statements in a private session by some of the witnesses in no way justifies the lawyers' saying that there is a sad situation within the Honduran Armed Forces. We must assume that the court, not the public, should examine those statements.

We also reject a statement that suggests President Azcona is expressing a lack of interest in cooperating with this case. If that was true, the Honduran Government would then not have appeared before the court, would have been found in contempt, and later could have even withdrawn its recognition of the court's jurisdiction.

It is evident that none of this has happened. Mr (Broadman) has stated that the cowardly killers of the witnesses should realize his organization will not rest until the arm of the law reaches them.

This zealous IAHRC attorney can rest assured that the Honduran Government and people, except for the terrorist groups that take orders from abroad, strongly condemned the crimes that have been committed, and that the nation possesses the necessary special investigative corps and competent legal courts.

Honduras, like many other American countries, is experiencing an increase in crime, especially in terrorist crimes financed from abroad.

The government is doing all it can to resolve this situation, and it can manage without the assistance of international bureaucrats who trample professional ethics to take political and economic advantage of this tragedy.

Information and Press Directorate of the Honduran Foreign Affairs Secretariat

Tegucigalpa, 20 January 1988.

Nicaragua

CDN's Fletes on 'Sandinist Mob' Attacks

PA221943 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] This morning in Nicaragua, a Sandinist mob attacked the main offices of the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN]. This took place during a rally organized by the 22 January Committee of Mothers of Political Prisoners. Correspondent Margarita Morales contacted CDN member Adan Fletes in Managua. Here is the report.

[Begin recording] [Morales] Mr Fletes, what is happening now at the CDN offices?

[Fletes] The CDN is demonstrating that the lifting of the state of emergency is being replaced by a state of terror. It started last night. Mobs attacked the main offices of the Social Christian Party. Yesterday, the mobs set fire to some (?banners) and attacked members of the Social Christian Party who were at that the main offices of that party. The building is located 1 and 1/2 blocks from the Queen Church, toward the (?lake). These people were carrying firearms, which they openly displayed, and sharp objects like machetes.

Today, the CDN held a news conference here at its main offices to denounce all these acts of repression. In addition, a meeting was being held at the CDN [headquarters] by the 22 January Mothers Committee, which is made up of relatives of political prisoners. The meeting was being held inside the CDN building, meaning that it was an indoor meeting. Suddenly, the mob attacked. It destroyed the windows of the building. Many people were struck by stones and other missiles. Among the injured were mothers who were hit in the back. August Jarquin, Social Christian Party secretary general, was hurt. He had to be taken to a doctor a short while ago.

[Morales] All that you have said contradicts the decrees lifting the state of emergency just signed by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. What do you think about that?

[Fletes] [Sounds of breaking glass] It is a total violation rather than a contradiction. This incident constitutes a violation of the Esquipulas agreement. It is a violation of the declaration that the Central American presidents made a few days ago. It is even a violation of the repeal of the state of emergency Ortega has issued here. These are not new tactics for the FSLN. The FSLN is used to replacing laws with measures for harsh control. They are replacing the state of emergency with a state of terror to intimidate the people who want to exercise their rights.

In addition, the mothers were totally and fully entitled to hold that rally. They had even possessed that right when the state of emergency was in effect. Therefore, this is an even more flagrant abuse.

[Morales] Has the mob left, or is it still surrounding the CDN?

[Fletes] These people continue surrounding the CDN.

[Morales] How many persons are there?

[Fletes] We have been unable to determine that. The CDN building is recessed. The shape of the building therefore makes it impossible to fully see how many persons have attacked the democratic sectors.

[Morales] Mr Fletes, besides stones, are they carrying other [sounds of gunfire]...

[Fletes, interrupting] You are hearing gunshots.

[Morales] Was anyone injured by the shots?

[Fletes] No one was injured by firearms. [end recording]

Government Issues Communique

PA230412 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0326 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Communique from the Public and International Relations Directorate of the Ministry of Interior, issued in Managua on 22 January]

[Text] The Ministry of Interior reports that at 1100 on 22 January, there was a report concerning disturbances near the offices of the CDN. A Sandinist police unit then arrived there at 1110. Due to the various versions that certain sectors have circulated, we state the following:

1. At 1100, a group of persons, who gathered with national and international journalists at the CDN installations, attempted to organize a public demonstration without the proper permit. They later cancelled their plan and violently attempted remove a banner painted with messages to the people that was displayed near the CDN offices. However, persons in the area protested and prevented their propaganda from being destroyed.

2. The situation then deteriorated into a fight between the people at the CDN offices and local townspeople, who used their fists and threw stones. As a result of the struggle, 54-year-old Mario Eusebio Valle Gutierrez, who lives in the area, was injured. The role of the Sandinist police was simply to restore public order and thus prevent further incidents.

Managua, 22 January 1988

Public and International Relations Directorate

Ministry of Interior

Contra Leader Calero Discusses Aid, Cease-Fire

PA241840 Buenos Aires FEUTER in Spanish 2205 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Report by Agustin Fuentes]

[Text] San Jose, 23 Jan (REUTER)—Adolfo Calero, who is considered the leading contra rebel leader, told REUTER here today that the contras would not accept an immediate cease-fire as long as negotiations on other matters continue.

Calero arrived in Costa Rica Wednesday, after being banned from Costa Rica for 3 years, to participate in a meeting between contra leaders and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo. The cardinal is acting as mediator between the contras and the Nicaraguan Government.

He [Calero] was interviewed during breakfast at a San Jose hotel.

Asked about the possibility of reaching an immediate cease-fire to comply with Obando y Bravo's desire to prevent 50 or 60 youths from dying each day in the Nicaraguan struggle, he answered: "The truth is that that figure is not correct; it is much less. In any case, we believe our war is like a big stick with which we are striking the Sandinists and forcing them to yield. We will not abandon our stick until they keep their word."

"We will not commit ourselves unless the Sandinist government grants a general amnesty without the threat of exile, grants full freedoms, eliminates restrictive laws, completely suspends repression, and ends the government-party-Army structure," he said.

"If we were to let go of our stick, we are certain they would not do any of that," he added.

He said he will fly to Washington [D.C.] on Sunday with all other Nicaraguan rebel political leaders in San Jose except Alfonso Robelo, whose wife is expecting a child on 28 January.

Cease-fire negotiations between the rebels and the Managua government, with the mediation of Nicaraguan bishops, will begin on 28 January.

In referring to U.S. aid, Calero commented: "It seems that a bipartisan agreement is being reached in the United States to agree on $50 million for 4 and 1/2 months."

He also noted: "I understand the plan involving $270 million for 18 months is being ruled out to leave a door open for political negotiations."

He said the aid would be divided into "lethal and nonlethal portions."

It is understood that arms and ammunition are lethal, he said.

Uniforms, boots, food, medicines, spare parts, and transport helicopters are considered nonlethal.

Calero stated: "The supply flights to rebel troops inside Nicaragua have never ceased."

"Recently they had carried only humanitarian aid since President Reagan suspended lethal aid to give the San Jose summit a chance. However, since it became clear that the Sandinist government had not been complying fully with the Esquipulas agreement, the shipment of lethal supplies has resumed."

Asked if these flights come from Honduras, he replied: "No."

When asked where the flights do come from, he answered: We cannot say.

When asked if they were from Honduras' Swan Island, he noted: That is what is being said.

In a news conference that he and rebel leaders Alfonso Robelo, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, and Alfredo Cesar held with a small group of reporters in a private apartment in San Jose last night, Calero said the contras have not received significant aid from other countries.

"We received some aid from Israel in 1982 which basically consisted of light weapons in poor shape it had apparently captured in Lebanon," Calero stated. "But we have not received anything after this, since Israel apparently is very cautious and requires U.S. authorization," he added.

Something similar happened with Taiwan, he pointed out. "There was a plan for aid, but it seems the United States rejected it, so there was no aid."

When asked about the assistance from Saudi Arabia and Brunei that was mentioned during Irangate, Calero replied: "We did not receive any of it."

At the news conference, Cesar noted that the rebels have been able to settle in central Nicaragua with arms and ammunition sufficient to last several months. Therefore, "they could maintain the military pressure on the Sandinist government" with the $50 million they are requesting.

Chamorro termed the lobbying they will carry out in Washington next week as "crucial."

Chamorro added: "If the aid is rejected, the rebels will be greatly damaged and may disappear."

Robelo expressed hope that the Sandinist leaders "will assist a little so that the U.S. Congress will approve the aid."

"My theory is that they prefer war over peace. Therefore, every time something goes to Congress for a vote, Daniel Ortega goes to Moscow to hug the Soviets, or they commit some abuse inside the country."

Calero explained that "the leadership of the Nicaraguan Resistance first makes the decisions. Enrique Bermudez is the military chief, and he does what the leadership orders."

They do not handle the money as in the past. "We receive the supplies, but we do not touch a penny," he added.

Borge Denies New Concessions, Rift in FLSN

PA251320 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1550 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Managua, 24 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Minister of Interior Tomas Borge said today that the Sandinists cannot make any further concessions for peace because "everything has already been done." He noted: "We have made concessions to revive peace and to allow the Sandinist project to live forever. We can do no more, because everything has already been done."

During a news conference held last night in this capital, Borge noted that if the U.S. Congress approves the $270 million for the contras, "it will be bad; and if it does not, it will be good." He said the FSLN National Directorate has not yet decided what to do if the funds for the Nicaraguan Resistance fighters are approved.

According to Borge, the most sensible thing the U.S. Congress could do "is to not approve a single penny for military or nonmilitary assistance, because either one goes against the Esquipulas II agreement."

The minister of interior spoke with journalists while he waited for the arrival of Miskito leader Brooklyn Rivera. Rivera represents the rebel Yatama organization and has begun negotiations in this capital with the Nicaraguan Government.

Borge was very accessible to the media. When it looked like the journalists were running out of questions, he gave the impression of expecting more. The minister of interior stated that he has ordered his personnel "to approve" requests for public rallies from "all political parties, including the Sandinist Front."

Borge reiterated his warning that a police permit is required for street marches, despite the lifting of the state of emergency last Thursday.

Commander Borge commented that tomorrow he will study a list of requests for new independent radio newscasts and then will decide on them the same day. The owners of Radio Corporacion, a private Managua radio station, last year requested permission to broadcast two newscasts, but the Interior Ministry has not yet replied.

Borge also said that if four non-Sandinist labor unions asked him for permission to carry out a public march, he would authorize it.

The Permanent Congress of the Workers [Congreso Permanente de los Trabajadores], to which four nongovernment labor unions belong, has announced that it will carry out a demonstration on 7 February to demand freedom for labor unions, a higher standard of living for workers, and the reestablishment of collective bargaining for labor.

[Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 1650 GMT on 24 January reports that Borge "today characterized as 'dreams' U.S. reports concerning an alleged division in the Sandinist leadership." ACAN then reports that he added: "Our enemies would like these rumors to be true."]

Wheelock on Clandestine Stations in Costa Rica

PA211712 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Interview with Major Ricardo Wheelock, chief of EPS military intelligence, by unidentified reporter on 20 January; place not given—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Wheelock]...presence of certain [words indistinct] radio stations on Honduran territory, specifically in Tegucigalpa and the border region. There is also a station serving to coordinate between FDN counterrevolutionary forces and the (?rest) of Honduras.

We must note that these stations were taken off the air while the presidents were meeting. However, they have been back on the air since 16 January at the same locations, frequencies, and schedules, along with targeting their operations against Nicaragua.

There also are propaganda stations in San Salvador, Tegucigalpa, and San Jose. These stations were also taken off the air, but now they have returned. They are at the same locations and still have the same frequencies and schedules.

We call for immediate compliance with the San Jose agreement; we want these radio stations (?eliminated) by the Governments of El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica, to contribute to peace in Central America.

[Reporter] Major Wheelock, does this constitute a violation of the Esquipulas II accords on the part of CIA intelligence apparatuses in Central America [words indistinct] Nicaragua?

[Wheelock] [Words indistinct] As for the Costa Rican Government, we denounce the presence of a shortwave propaganda radio station and a radio station that gives instructions to troops and [word indistinct] elements. We do not believe that the Costa Rican Government is cooperating with these elements.

In Costa Rica's case, we denounce the presence of two border-region radio stations that give instructions to troops. We believe this is part of a [word indistinct] behind the back of the Costa Rican Government.

The Costa Rican Government has reiterated that it will welcome a TELCOR [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services] engineer from Nicaragua to help locate these stations and take them off the air.

As for El Salvador and Honduras, we know of no statements on the part of their governments that address Nicaragua's charge. [end recording]

Charges Filed Against U.S. Citizen Denby

PA251516 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] The Office of the Attorney General has filed 15 charges in the Second and Fourth District Criminal Courts of Managua against individuals involved in counterrevolutionary activities. The 15 charges are the first to be received by the courts since the President Ortega ordered the dissolution of the Anti-Somozist People's Tribunals.

Those charged included U.S. citizen James Jordan Denby and well-known counterrevolutionary collaborators.

Contras Down Matagalpa Electric Towers

PA240250 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1810 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] The contras sabotaged two electric power transmission towers in a place known as La Taiwita, Matiguas, Matagalpa Department, on 19 January. This left the Bocana de Paiwas and Rio Blanco sectors without power. Amador Hernandez, the INE [Nicaraguan Institute of Energy] zone delegate in that region, submitted this report.

Paper: Contra Aid Defeat 'Only' Way for Peace

PA240306 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 21 Jan 88 p 3

[Editorial: "The Esquipulas III Deadline"]

[Text] President Reagan's campaign not to let his mercenaries die, and his announcement that he will do the impossible to give them "what they need to survive," confirms the fateful import of the deadline for war or peace that is inherent in the U.S. Congress' vote on contra aid. This vote is scheduled for 4 February.

On that day, Democratic and Republican congressmen will have the opportunity to meet the last remaining deadline to achieve peace in Central America. In the last meeting, the presidents did not set any additional deadlines. It became clear to all of them that the only way to achieve peace is by stopping the aggression against Nicaragua.

Therefore, suspending aid to the contras is the only guarantee for the peace process. Any other kind of aid that may be approved—military, "humanitarian," or whatever one may want to call it—will only serve to bury the peace efforts forever and start a war that would set all Central America afire.

For Reagan, the approval of a single dollar for the mercenaries would be an unequivocal sign that he has been able to maintain a consensus in the two parties that determine the Yankee policy of continuing the war against Nicaragua. To him, it would be like a type of carte blanche to invade us at any time.

The 4 February vote is very important for the hopes for peace that Central Americans possess. Nicaragua—and with it, Latin America—are going through one of the climaxes in the confrontation with Yankee policy. The outcome of this situation will affect future U.S. relations with the rest of the continent.

We, the Nicaraguan people, can also affect that vote. Our mobilization in the streets, our willingness to remain in the war trenches, and our firm determination to defend freedom are a moral and political force of incalculable value in making the United States consider the price that the decision to continue the war would have for it and its allies in Nicaragua.

President Ortega To Meet With Pope on 29 Jan

PA251630 Paris AFP in Spanish 1428 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Vatican City, 25 Jan (AFP)—Pope John Paul II will meet with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega on 29 January, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro announced today.

This will be the third meeting between Ortega and the pope, who met with Ortega at the Vatican in 1980 and in Managua on 3 March 1983 during his visit to Nicaragua.

Rights Body 'Pleased' With New Measures

PA241410 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] The Inter-American Human Rights Commission [CIDH] is pleased that the state of emergency has been lifted, that the TPA [Anti-Somozist People's Tribunals] have been suspended, and that the government will issue an amnesty measure. CIDH Vice President Dr Marco Tulio Bruni-Celli has expressed his satisfaction with the recent decrees issued by the government that abolish the state of emergency and suspend the TPA. Bruni-Celli, who is in Nicaragua at the invitation of the government to verify human rights conditions, said the best atmosphere for respecting human rights is peace. We now bring you statements by CIDH Vice President Dr Marco Tulio Bruni-Celli:

[Begin recording] [Bruni-Celli] We believe the best atmosphere for the respect of human rights is peace, and peace must be attained. We believe that the Esquipulas agreement and the fulfillment of those accords are an excellent path for achieving peace in Central America, as well as respect for human rights. We wish to avail ourselves of this opportunity to emphasize that we are pleased with the recent decrees. One of them reinstates certain guarantees and lifts the state of emergency. We think this is a necessary measure because it constitutes the legal framework for respecting the rights and liberties of the people. The same applies for the TPA and the Nicaraguan Government's announcement that the pending trials will be turned over to the regular courts.

I must emphasize that regular courts, which are obviously based on the law and not on subjective and deficient criteria, can better administer justice. Therefore, we are pleased with these positive signs—such as the elimination of the special courts—of striving to respect human rights.

[Reporter] Dr Bruni-Celli, what do you think of the Nicaraguan Government's decision to lift the state of emergency, suspend the TPA, and grant amnesty despite the war situation prevailing in this country? Also, how do the terrorist actions of the counterrevolutionaries affect human rights?

[Bruni-Celli] I already said that the best atmosphere for respecting human rights is peace. I repeat that we are pleased with the reestablishment of guarantees, with the repeal of the state of emergency, and with the elimination of the special courts. In fact, we wish to consolidate peace, because it is the atmosphere where human rights are developed, promoted, and respected.

[Reporter] And how about the counterrevolutionary actions? How do they affect human rights? Are the contras violating human rights?

[Bruni-Celli] We cannot make that kind of judgment. That is not our mission, nor are we permitted to evaluate such situations. Furthermore, the public is well aware of the situation. [end recording]

Refinery, Oil Shipments To Ease Fuel Shortage

PA241640 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 21 Jan 88 pp 1, 5

[Text] Emilio Canales, director of oil supplies for PETRONIC [Nicaraguan Petroleum Enterprise], has told BARRICADA that the refinery began processing 254,000 barrels of oil yesterday morning, following 9 days of inoperation, in an effort to end the 9-day shortage of oil products.

However, the shortage will continue through January and early February. This is despite the fact that oil and fuel shipments are scheduled to arrive in the next few days. The situation may stabilize by 15 February.

PETRONIC has devised a plan to create stockpiles for rational use and to guarantee the supply to all sectors by order of priority.

The requirements of the EPS, the Ministry of Interior, and the agricultural and livestock sectors in the various regions will be 100-percent guaranteed.

The supplies to the central government—which receives them at the Esso service station in Altagracia—will be reduced by 25 percent. Those of the Ministry of Construction and its related enterprises will be reduced by 50

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Canales said that the effects of the shortage have been felt more strongly in the capital, because priority has been given to sending fuel supplies to the regions. He noted that 40,000 gallons were sent to Region 4 yesterday to guarantee the coffee harvest.

A shipment of 9,500 gallons of gasoline for motor vehicles will arrive on 25 January. However, 4 days are required between arrival and distribution due to unloading, analysis, or processing in the case of crude oil.

A ship is expected to arrive with 31,000 metric tons of oil by 27 January. On that same day, another ship will arrive from Cuba with 35,000 barrels of diesel fuel and gasoline.

Assembly Receives Ortega-Approved Budget

PA241840 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] The National Assembly this afternoon received the general budget of the Republic as approved by President Daniel Ortega on 23 December, due to the powers invested in him by the Nicaraguan Constitution.

The Republic's budget, which amounts to over [figure indistinct] cordobas, centers on the expenses of defense and the [word indistinct] program, the minister of finance announced. As of 1 January, [words indistinct] and this is the first time the Assembly has been notified. During the first 5 years, credit and public expenses were seriously affected by the war, the economic embargo, the unjust international trade, and the decrease in foreign sources of financing.

Scarce resources have been allotted to the defense sector, in view of the survival economy. In spite of all this, revenues increased faster in 1987 than did expenses.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] The more dynamic sources of increased revenue were the selective consumer taxes, oil by-products, and income tax. [end recording]

Expenses of state organizations will have to followed according to plans, and not a single additional centavo will be spent. After the presentation of the budget, some position parties stated that the Assembly should be the prove, with a delay, the budget that

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Panama

Noriega Denies U.S. Asked Him To Resign

PM260957 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 14 Jan 88 p 9

[Interview with Panamanian Defense Forces Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega by Joaquim Ibarz in Panama; date not given]

[Text] Panama City—"The United States has not asked me to resign. The purpose of the visit by Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Armitage was not to force my departure from power. We had a very friendly and professional conversation, but it is untrue that he brought a message from Reagan asking me to relinquish the Defense Forces leadership," General Manuel Antonio Noriega asserted in the course of an interview granted to LA VANGUARDIA.

Panama's "strongman" was especially anxious to deny reports about the alleged message which Armitage brought, which gave rise to many rumors and speculations about the existence of a plan for Noriega to relinquish command in an honorable and face-saving way.

"I have talked with Senator Christopher Dodd and with U.S. Ambassador Davis, and now I have just done so with Armitage. I have never received a message requesting my resignation, as has been published, stated, and blazoned by the U.S. 'establishment' in the newspapers which it controls." However, although Noriega asserts that the White House has not pressed him directly to relinquish power, he complains that the U.S. Government is seeking to destabilize Panama in an effort to rid itself of him.

Noriega received us at one of the most beautiful places in Panama, in the gardens of a promontory recovered from the United States, facing the mouth of the canal and near the Americas Bridge.

[Ibarz] Is it true, as the opposition asserts, that you had to return early from the Dominican Republic because on Saturday evening some high-ranking officers of the Defense Forces had doubts about their loyalty to the commander in chief?

[Noriega] No, that is absolutely false and ridiculous. There was nothing of the sort. The farce staged by the opposition forms part of the program, of the menu. But the Armed Forces are highly aware not of the man but of the command; not of the name but of action and doctrine. These are not the Armed Forces controlled by the oligarchy, which kept this country in subjection from 1903. The officers have undergone a change of outlook; a professional evolution has occurred. They have been given a soul, which is sovereignty, nationalism, and patriotism; the conquest of this piece of territory behind us, which is the Panama Canal.

[Ibarz] So why did you hastily return to Panama in the early hours of Sunday, when you had announced that you would not do so until Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday?

[Noriega] In the first place, because I had already achieved the purpose of my visit, and, second, because the journalists were pestering me morbidly. There was no longer any reason for me to stay in Santo Domingo.

[Ibarz] You said in Santo Domingo that your visit to that capital represented a kind of trap for the United States. What were you seeking by setting that trap?

[Noriega] Panama must be allowed to seek its own destiny; the Panamanians must determine their own destiny. We have directly sent the message, which is at the White House, that they must stand aside from this husband-and-wife quarrel between government and opposition. We have plainly said that nobody must interfere in a quarrel between husband and wife. This is a Panamanian domestic problem. We want neither the United States nor anybody else to interfere in our problems, which are strictly political.

[Ibarz] What conclusions did you draw from this trap, which, according to what you say, you set for the United States last weekend?

[Noriega] We were able to ascertain details and stances. The United States should lay off the Panamanian problem. We have told it that it must not sponsor groups in domestic conflict. In view of the proof that it is interfering in our affairs, it is demonstrated that it is always awaiting the opportunities afforded by domestic conflict to take part directly in a psychological war produced by the breeding grounds of these political problems.

[Ibarz] Did you also try with this trap to test the Defense Forces' loyalty?

[Noriega] No, the Defense Forces' loyalty was never at issue. They have already demonstrated their loyalty and are immune to betrayal. [answer ends]

Noriega feels betrayed by the United States. He remembers the day when his mentor and predecessor, General Omar Torrijos, asked him to go to Cuba in order to secure the release of the Americans captured during the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961. Noriega succeeded in carrying out the mission, and he stated in this connection that "when the Americans want something, they see and describe everything through rose-colored glasses and say that you are a hero, but when they no longer need you, they forget you or declare war on you."

He also said that he had done the United States other favors, such as when the invasion of Grenada took place. "Vice President Bush spoke to me to ask me to tell

Castro not to interfere." In blaming the Americans for all his problems, Noriega seeks to make light of the extensive opposition which there is to the regime.

Nevertheless, it is undeniable that the United States plays an important role in the destabilization attempts. The Senate approved a resolution severing economic and military aid. The news of Assistant Secretary Armitage's visit, according to what the U.S. news media reported, was presented as the withdrawal of confidence by the Pentagon from the man who was still Panama's strong man.

There is an important reason why the United States wants to rid itself of Noriega. With a view to the year 2000—the date when the Americans will hand the canal over to Panama—Washington wants to be sure that the government of the day will be friendly and reliable and will look after its interests. Noriega nowadays arouses its distrust.

[Ibarz] Has Panama's rapprochement with the USSR and Libya over the past few months irritated the United States?

[Noriega] Torrijos himself made the first rapprochement with Libya in 1977, establishing diplomatic and trading relations without any problem. With respect to the Soviet Union, we have the instance of our neighbor Costa Rica, which maintains relations with Moscow without anything happening, while Panama still has no Soviet embassy here. Because of its geographical position, our country receives a Russian fishing fleet. The contact, the rapprochement, has been a fact since Soviet vessels have passed through the canal and their crews have landed in Panama. Patterns of conduct or those with whom we can have relations cannot be imposed on us; still less can we be given lists of friends and enemies. Nobody criticizes the rapprochement between the big powers. The fact that a fishing fleet passes through here and the Russian seamen use Panama as an embarkation and landing point cannot be criticized.

[Ibarz] What measures could you adopt against the United States, if it continues with its destabilization plans? Could you forbid the Southern Command to continue to operate in Central America from its Panamanian bases?

[Noriega] Panama has many lists of reactions prepared, but the National Assembly, parties, and trade unions, which in due course will determine the measures to be adopted, take part in making these decisions. I could not enumerate them, but I am certain that they exist.

[Ibarz] In what way does the political instability suffered by the country since last June affect Panama's banking and financial center?

[Noriega] The financial center is a brainchild of the major analysts of the U.S. international banks. In the seventies we found that the abundance of petrodollars and the excess liquidity were being placed in financial centers. The United States itself caused the pupils of the economic schools to find Panama an excellent place as a geographical center and as a peaceful and secure place, although at that time there was a military dictatorship in quotemarks; I recall that Gen Torrijos was in command of the nation. Despite that, the Financial Center of Panama was set up, with very special regulations recommended by the U.S. economic analysts: There should be neither control over deposits nor legal regulations to control that money, which was handled in dollars. [answer ends].

Noriega stated that the Panama financial center developed, succeeding in ousting competition from the area—in particular, to the Bahamas—and even competed with that of Switzerland.

[Noriega] Just as it can come in, that money can go out, and the government has no means of preventing it from leaving. Instability causes the money to take flight, and when panic spreads, the capitalists withdraw their money from the bank. The United States has had recourse to a dirty war and psychological warfare with the aim of weakening the Panamanian banking center, creating confusion and uncertainty on several occasions. But that money is returning again because the economic collapse for which they hoped has not occurred.

Vice President Esquivel Rules Out Noriega Coup

PA252303 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Jan 88 p 1

[Article by Lisette Carrasco]

[Text] Vice President Roderick Esquivel yesterday ruled out the possibility that General Manuel Antonio Noriega will organize a coup d'etat in response to the political crisis in Panama over the last several months.

Esquivel, also president of the Liberal Party, has had a dispute with President Eric Arturo Delvalle since three newspapers, two weekly publications, and three radio stations were closed down. He said the possibility of a coup d'etat led by Gen Noriega "is not his style, and it does not jibe with his situation or with the country's reality."

"I am quite sure many people think he—Noriega—is cornered. I do not think Gen Noriega is cornered, and he has many options," Esquivel said when referring to the possible alternatives for the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] commander's departure.

Vice President Esquivel believes "there are many people around him—Noriega—who live off him or the situation." Esquivel says it is they who "possibly feel cornered or afraid, because these are the last days of

Pompeii for them," and that is why they want to prevent Noriega's departure. He said "many members of the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], PALA [Labor Party], and even the Liberal Party" are involved in the situation.

Dr Esquivel said: "I do not think Gen Noriega feels cornered."

Asked what alternative Noriega might seek to overcome the crisis, Esquivel said he believes "Gen Noriega will try to fulfill his obligation as a Panamanian citizen and military officer, keeping in mind the country's and the FDP's welfare." Esquivel believes "Noriega will advocate a democratic solution and a way out for this country."

Referring to the FDP antiriot units sent to strategic points throughout the capital as soon as a Civic Crusade activity is announced, Esquivel said he does not know "if Gen Noriega sends the Dobermans there." However, Esquivel considers that the military presence "is the civilian government's responsibility," so both President Delvalle and Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari De Leon must assume the responsibility and say: "I did not order that; or, that was done against my orders."

Delvalle on Blandon Plan, Agriculture

PA260459 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Jose Isabel Blandon is still performing his duties in the consulate in New York, pending an audit, Panama President Eric Arturo Delvalle said today. He added that he spoke on the telephone with Blandon today, who denied that he had requested federal protection from the U.S. Government.

The president referred at noon today to the Blandon plan, arguing that it was an initiative conceived by the Panamanian consul in New York to lead to a reconciliation of the Panamanian people.

[Delvalle] "Regarding the Blandon plan, I am not very familiar with it. It was a plan that he felt could provide an opportunity for the Panamanian people to reconcile. I do not know the details of that document. I soon will, but, right now, I do not know it well enough to analyze it. There are others who have had more access to it."

Regarding Blandon he stated:

[Delvalle] "He will perform his duties in the consulate until the Comptroller's Office auditors conduct an audit, either today, tomorrow, or the day after."

Regarding the announced federal protection by the U.S. Government to Engineer Blandon, he said:

[Delvalle] "I spoke to Engineer Blandon, and he said it is false, that he has not requested anything. I learned that he held a news conference to this effect today."

Speaking before the Agriculture Development Consultative Council on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Agriculture Development Ministry, the president said that it is unacceptable that 75 percent of our farmland is not legally registered by their owners, thus preventing the landholders from having access to the necessary credit to develop their enterprises.

[Delvalle] "I have issued instructions to the Agriculture Development minister to complete the draft bill of the 5-year plan for the agriculture-livestock sector to be submitted to your consideration and, thereafter, to the next Legislative Assembly, in accordance with Law 2 of 1986."

Argentina

Foreign Minister Holds Talks in Sweden, Spain

Views Nuclear Policy, Uprising

PY221831 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2345 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Jan (NA)—It has been officially reported here that Foreign Minister Dante Caputo stated in Sweden today that Argentina "will not (repeat not) sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty" because it favors only the countries "that have more" nuclear technology.

During a joint news conference that the leaders of the Group of Six held in Stockholm, Caputo said the Argentine nuclear policy is aimed at the peaceful and civilian use of nuclear energy and that Argentina has been using it "only for these purposes."

Asked whether he discused the kidnapping of Dagmar Hagelin during his meeting with Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson, Caputo answered that he had, adding that he had given Carlsson "a complete report on the legal proceedings that have been followed in relation to this case."

Caputo said he had informed Carlsson about the investigations that the Argentine democratic government has conducted since it came to power, in connection with the case that involved Captain Alfredo Astiz.

Caputo said the Argentine Government is negotiating with Brazil regarding the issue of mutual verification to ensure that nuclear energy is being used for civilian purposes.

Caputo stressed that these negotiations mean security not only for Brazil and Argentina but also for other nations and for the international community. Asked about the Argentine situation, Caputo said: "Democracy was strengthened and reaffirmed" after the military events.

Caputo added that the positive aspect of the military events is that "the Armed Forces have shown their commitment to defending the institutional order and not just the administration that happens to be in office." He said: "One would be better off without" this kind of event because it implies that "sometimes the past contaminates the present and also the future." He added: "These events are a part of our history that we Argentines would like to get rid of."

He said, however, that the positive aspect of the military event "is more important" than its negative aspect, which is "the rebellion, the mutiny."

Caputo stated that "the great question that Argentines and foreign observers have asked themselves was whether or not the Armed Forces would defend the constitutional order in the face of the uprising."

Caputo stressed: "Not only the government but all Argentines feel that despite everything, this event contributed to the strengthening of democracy in Argentina."

Prepares Alfonsin Visit to Spain

PY231902 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1415 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Madrid, 23 Jan (EFE) —Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today affirmed that the Spanish-Argentine cooperation treaty, for which a preliminary document will be signed between the two countries when President Alfonsin visits Spain next week, "will be an instrument to energize the Argentine economic process."

Caputo made this statement before meeting with his Spanish counterpart, Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, "to put the final touches" on the treaty, which will mean the investment of $3 billion (some 3.3 billion pesetas) in Argentina through 1992.

Fernandez Ordonez noted that a document setting down the guidelines for a "very important" treaty will be signed during President Alfonsin's visit.

The treaty will then probably be signed within the next 90 days, and it will be ratified by the congresses of both countries, because it is an international agreement.

The Spanish foreign minister added that the treaty is broad in scope with regard to the areas of political, economic, cultural, and consular cooperation.

Dante Caputo, who arrived in Madrid on Friday to prepare President Alfonsin's visit to Spain on 30-31 January, said the agreement, to be known as the "General Treaty of Cooperation and Friendship," will help to expand relations between the two countries, because it expresses "the confidence" Spain has in Argentina. "This treaty is vital for our people," Caputo stressed. [passage omitted]

Regarding the current Argentine situation, Minister Caputo said the situation is good, and the Armed Forces have shown their ability to defend the constitutional system.

Caputo said: "It was more than just the quelling of a military uprising. An important step has been taken to consolidate the democratic process." He added that Argentina has taken "a positive step" to consolidate the system.

Remarks Upon Return

PY250001 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1441 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jan (TELAM)—Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo stated that his talks in Spain concerning the agreements Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez will sign in Spain were successful because the projects the two leaders outlined in Buenos Aires have been carried out.

Caputo made these remarks at 0945 today upon arriving at the Ezeiza International Airport on board a regular Lufthansa flight from Frankfurt. The foreign minister added that he hopes Alfonsin's upcoming visit to Spain will enjoy the success it deserves.

Caputo also expressed satisfaction over the results of the meeting of the Group of Six in Stockholm, Sweden. The group has assigned itself a new role in the wake of the agreement on medium-range missiles signed by the Soviet Union and the United States. Caputo added that this agreement constitutes a new hope which must be developed further.

Regarding Sweden's position on the case of the missing Swedish girl Dagmar Hagelin, which dates back to the 1970's, Caputo said: We have reported the progress of the investigation and court actions taken in this case to the Swedish Government.

Army Chief of Staff on Uprising, Amnesty

PY251625 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Jan 88 p 7

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Army Chief-of-Staff Jose Caridi said that the uprising staged by Lieutenant-Colonel Aldo Rico brought "commotion" to the force of which some reflection persists but he stressed that everything is "under control" and that the rebellious group has been "disbanded."

He also said that "the wish for an amnesty must not be thought of as a claim" because the wishes are on a different level from "what can or cannot be formally requested."

Defence Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena, in turn, told O GLOBO Brazilian daily yesterday that a coup d'etat in Argentina is "impossible" today because it would not find any support among the people.

He said Rico's rebellion had been sparked by "personal motives" and that it was only backed by ultrarightist minority sectors.

In a long interview printed by CLARIN daily, Caridi explained the recent crisis as "a confrontation between a faction of officers and the Army as a whole, which represented [as published] its commands and obeyed the orders it was given to resolve—even through combat—the abnormalities which that group brought about."

He said the Rico group "had a certain ideological consistency which dates back a long time and gives it a certain cohesion" which is "contrary to the rules which the force must abide by."

Caridi admitted that "many of the Army's aims could coincide, and in fact did coincide, with the issues taken up by the Holy Week rebels" but added that "the fundamental difference was that the group took up positions which went against discipline."

Asked to explain why the Army refused to repress the Holy Week rebels and this time agreed to confront them, the military chief said that "this time it marched (against the rebels) because it felt identified with the aims and policies of the Army high command, and because (the latter) achieved a level of discipline, cohesion and unity which guaranteed its command with no restrictions."

He added that "the motives behind the rebellion were seen as extemporaneous, suggesting the defense of personal situations."

He also underlined that as Army chief he received "the necessary support and confindence" from the government.

As for the rumoured split within the Army between infantry and cavalry units, Caridi said it was "totally artifical," pointing out that both among Rico's supporters and among the loyalist troops which repressed them there were officers of different forces.

CPA Condemns Government Response to Uprising

PY202051 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1340 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jan (TELAM)—The PCA today said "the threat of a coup is not overcome by shirking responsibilities, governing with the Armed Forces, or restricting democracy." On the contrary, this only "encourages the coup-makers and allows the blatant and shameless advance of the military forces on civilian power, as was dramatically demonstrated by the rebellion of Rico and his accomplices."

The PCA adds: "We have said that we had to crush those with painted faces [carapintadas—soldiers with camouflage paint on their faces], and we reiterate this now." The document emphasizes that "President Alfonsin said the same thing during Holy Week, when he stated that the house was in order." The document adds: "We have been fooled once more."

"The official spokesmen keep repeating that democracy has been consolidated thanks to the decisive action of the loyal Armed Forces," the manifesto says, adding that "the Holy Week incidents produced the infamous Due Obedience Law and thus made a joke of public opinion."

The PCA then asks: "Are we next going to see the imposition of an amnesty and the decoration of the torturers and murderers, as favored by Rico and by Caridi as well?"

The document says the PCA tried to promote popular mobilization "in spite of the justified skepticism created by the Holy Week surrender."

The document adds: "We tried to promote a mobilization despite the deliberate attempt of the government to downplay the situation, which was met with exuberant support from the Alsogaray sector [conservative sector].

The PCA goes on to say that "we tried very hard, despite the complicity of the national leaders to prevent the mobilization. These leaders only embellished their positions with 'symbolic' measures, while the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] issued an ambigious communique avoiding all concrete action."

"After this episode of the crisis, we reiterate that mobilization is today more necessary than ever," the PCA says, arguing that "we should not permit popular relief at the failure of the rebellion to be used to consolidate and legitimize the role of the Armed Forces as the armed branch of imperialism and the oligarchy, and to entrench current anti-popular and anti-national policies."

The document adds that "this is the plan being implemented; this is the objective openly pursued by the military command. They are 'loyal' alright, but only to their old convictions concerning a doctrine of an internal front and national security."

The PCA adds: "It is then clear that we want to keep our house in order for all those who went into the streets during Holy Week and in the last few days. We urge all the forces of the left, our comrades of the FRAL [Broad Front of Liberation], all political sectors, and the anti-imperialist and democratic forces to draw their own conclusions from these incidents."

The document concludes by stating that "the path of the Communists and the comrades of the Front to win national and social liberation and true well-being for our people is through struggle and organization. This is the only way we will draw nearer to the day when the house, our house, will really be in order."

Brazil

Sarney Views Employment Situation, Salaries

PY160024 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Excerpt] During his regular Friday radio program today, President Jose Sarney in one passage referred to unemployment and salaries in 1987.

[Begin Sarney recording] I want to say that economic performance even during the best years of the decade before I came to power was worse than in 1987. Last year we had a low unemployment rate, which by December stood at 3.82 percent, compared with 7.58 percent in 1984, the year before I took office. We have steadily reduced the unemployment rate, thus demonstrating that economic growth is the solution to the unemployment problem anywhere in the world. To note the importance of this index, we have only to recall that the U.S. President must account for it to Congress every year.

As I have said, unemployment in 1987 was 3.8 percent, which is the rate of residual unemployment. The unemployment rate in the United States was 6 percent, and in Europe it was 11 percent. Even in hard times, Brazil continues to perform quite well in comparison with more developed countries. This feat was possible due to the government decision to fight recession. We have constantly been encouraging businesmen to invest more, and asking them to have confidence in Brazil. [end recording]

President Sarney then guaranteed that he will double the real value of the minimum salary during his term.

[Begin Sarney recording] I also want to talk about the salary question. When I came to power, salaries were being adjusted every 6 months; now, they are being adjusted every month through free bargaining. Thus the wage earner can defend himself against inflation by maintaining the real value of his salary. As for the minimum salary, we are readjusting it by percentages above the inflation rate, and we intend to double its real value during my term in office. This is one of my goals. I also set up unemployment insurance and granted recognition to more than 1,000 new labor unions, not to mention scores of other measures beneficial to the working class. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Finance Minister on Inflation Rate, Economy

PY251635 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega is now in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais State, where he held a meeting this morning with 50 businessmen.

Minister Nobrega said he did not go to Belo Horizonte to promise unattainable things. He only wants to keep the inflation rate at about 15 percent a month for 6 months. He also said he intends to adopt the necessary measures to put the Brazilian economy on a sound footing.

1987 Trade Surplus Totals $11.15 Billion

PY210210 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Jan 88 p A-25

[Text] Rio de Janeiro—Despite the economic crisis, Brazil managed to realize an $11.15-billion surplus in its trade balance in 1987. This amount represents a 33.75-percent increase in relation to the surplus of 1986, which stood at $8.33 bilion. Namir Salek, director of the Bank of Brazil's Foreign Trade Department (Cacex), yesterday released the official trade balance figures. He said the 1987 overall exports—which totaled $26.21 billion—were the second largest in Brazilian history. He added that the 1987 imports totaled $15.06 billion. The record year for Brazilian exports was 1984, when they totaled $27 billion. Salek believes the 1988 surplus will stand at $10.5 billion, that is, below that of 1987.

Salek also said that there was a $1.095-billion surplus in the trade balance in December 1987. He noted that manufactured products accounted for 80 percent of all Brazilian exports in 1987, that is, for $18 billion. The car and spare parts industries have become the main Brazilian exporters; exports of vehicles and parts totaled $2.8 billion in 1987, thus replacing coffee as the main export item. Coffee beans, which in 1986 accounted for $2 billion, dropped to third place in 1987 ($1.95 billion). Soybean and soybean byproducts (oil and whole soybean flour) placed second by totaling $2.4 billion.

The 1987 trade balance figures exceeded by more than $2 billion the goal set by the government early last year. According to Salek, the "mediocre" results obtained during the first quarter—when the surplus only reached $583 million, while it totaled $2.4 billion for the same period in 1986—was followed by a growth in exports since May. The increase in exports stemmed from adjusted exchange rates, availability of export products, and the recovery of international prices.

In Salek's opinion, exports will grow between 8 and 8.5 percent this year in relation to last year. Thus, the export goal this year will be $28 billion, while imports will have to stand at $17.5 billion.

Army To Maintain Order in Conflict Area

PY230138 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] The Army is not on the border between Acre and Rondonia to side with either state, but only to keep the order, General Mario Orlando Sampaio, military commander of the Amazon region, has said. He was referring to the conflict between the two states over the towns of Vila Extrema and Nova California.

Colombia

Attorney General Kidnapped, Found Murdered

PA251404 Paris AFP in Spanish 1336 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Medellin, 25 Jan (AFP)—Colombian Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos was kidnapped at dawn today in a bloody operation in which two of his bodyguards were killed, Medellin Mayor William Jaramillo reported. Medellin is in northeastern Colombia.

The kidnapping of Hoyos, a bachelor attorney and former Liberal member of parliament, occurred near Medellin's Jose Maria Cordoba Airport, 30 km from the capital of Antioquia Province.

The kidnapping has shocked Colombians, who still have not recovered from the kidnapping of Andres Pastrana Arango, Social Conservative Party candidate for the Bogota mayoral office.

Medellin Mayor William Jaramillo said two of the members of Carlos Mauro Hoyos' escort were killed by the kidnappers, who escaped in three vehicles. Thus far, there are no indications of their whereabouts.

Hoyos, 42 years old, was on his way to the Medellin airport to return to Bogota, where he usually works.

A heavy military and police operation is presently taking place in Medellin, Colombia's second most important city, which is the base of the "Medellin cartel," a group that the DEA blames for 80 percent of the cocaine that enters the United States.

Police sources do not know who the kidnappers are, but they believe the same people who kidnapped Andres Pastrana 1 week ago are responsible for this new abduction. These people identify themselves as the extraditables, and they are struggling to prevent the reactivation of an extradition treaty with the United States.

In the past 7 years, 13 Colombians have been extradited to the United States.

Attorney General Hoyos had urged Virgilio Barco's Liberal government to decide on the extradition treaty.

Further on Kidnapping

PA251541 Paris AFP in Spanish 1522 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 25 Jan (AFP)—Carlos Mauro Hoyos, the attorney general of Colombia, who was kidnapped today by a group of unidentified men, has two bullet wounds in the abdomen, the private Bogota Caracol radio reported.

Two of the attorney general's bodyguards were killed during the kidnapping, which took place near Jose Maria Cordoba Airport, about 30 km east of Medellin, Colombia's second most important city. Attorney General Hoyos is a lawyer and member of the Liberal Party.

The mayor of Rionegro, a municipality within the jurisdiction where the kidnapping occurred, reported that Attorney General Hoyos received "at least two bullet wounds—one in the abdomen and another in the leg [as received]."

The kidnapping of Hoyos, which occurred before 1300 GMT today, has caused a commotion in Colombia.

President Virgilio Barco Vargas, also a Liberal Party member, is currently presiding over a special cabinet meeting to adopt emergency measures.

Antioquia Officials Cited

PA251740 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish
1400 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Report by Ruben Dario Hoyos from Medellin]

[Text] Antioquia Governor Fernando Parejo Cerna has assembled a special security council to analyze the current situation in Antioquia Department, especially with regard to the abduction of Colombian Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos.

The Antioquia governorship public order department confirmed to Caracol that Hoyos' kidnappers used four vehicles: three Toyotas, which were blue, beige, and [color indistinct]; and a Renault-21, the color of which is not yet known. The Antioquia governorship also reported that the abduction took place at Jose Maria Cordoba Airport.

Hoyos' escort [name indistinct] worked for the Attorney General's Office in Bogota, and Jorge Loaiza Hurtado was an escort of one of the Antioquia regional attorney generals, and was replacing one of Hoyos' escorts who was on vacation. The Antioquia regional attorney general's office supplied this escort to protect Hoyos' life.

In addition, Antioquia Government Secretary Guillermo Mejia Mejia traveled to Bogota to meet with Government Minister Cesar Gaviria Trujillo and [acronym indistinct] leaders to analyze the public order situation in Antioquia Department, especially in Uraba region, where political crimes have been committed in the last few weeks.

Hoyos' Replacement Sworn In

PA251937 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1916 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Bogota, 25 Jan (DPA)—Alfredo Gutierrez Marquez, Colombia's assistant attorney general, was sworn in at noon as Colombian attorney general, a few hours after the kidnapping of Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos. [passage omitted]

Attorney General's Body Found

PA252230 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish
2213 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] The body of Colombian Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos Jimenez has just been found. The body was left in a quarry near the El Mago Farm on the road to Las Palmas. The following is a report by [words indistinct]:

[Begin live relay] Attention Caracol listeners: Emisoras Caracol has just confirmed that the body of Colombian Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos was found a few minutes ago. Emisoras Caracol can report that a few minutes ago [words indistinct]. Caracol is reporting from the area (?where the body was located). We are in San Gerardo [words indistinct]. A police cordon is keeping civilians from reaching the area where the body was found.

We repeat, the body of Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos has been found. This information has just been confirmed by the security organizations and high-ranking military officers who have just arrived here. The body was located approximately 200 meters from here [words indistinct], on the road to Las Palmas. This area is only a few kilometers from the Jose Maria Cordoba Airport, where the attorney general was kidnapped this morning. [end live relay]

Hoyos Killing, Pastrana Linked

PA260148 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Report by correspondents Maria Luisa Mejia and Jorge Alonso Sierra from Medellin]

[Excerpts] [Mejia] This is not good news. Ironically, at the same location where Andres Pastrana was released just a few hours ago, they have found the body of Attorney General Hoyos. He had been kidnapped near the Jose Maria Cordoba Airport while enroute to Bogota this morning. As Andres Pastrana himself said when he was released: This country is finished. The country is finished because in that same spot where he was released, at San Gerardo, near El Retiro municipality, they found the attorney general's gagged and handcuffed body.

One of our reporters, Jorge Alonso Sierra, went to San Gerardo. Unfortunately, his film is not very clear due to inadequate lighting, but we will show you some of it anyway so you can see what we have. Jorge, why don't you tell our television viewers what you saw at this site, where it is, and what happened to the attorney general.

[Sierra] The place where the attorney general's body was found is far from the Las Palmas road; this is one of the roads that connects Medellin to the Olaya Herrera Airport. The kidnappers took the attorney general approximately 500 meters uphill on that road. A peasant reported that two men in a Toyota left him at that spot. The peasant added that he did not hear gunshots or moans. Presumably, the men in the Toyota carried the attorney general's already dead body and just left him there. He was blindfolded, handcuffed, and, apparently, had been tortured.

[Mejia] Jorge Alonso, has information been given on the number of bullet holes in the attorney general's body?

[Sierra] When we arrived at the site, the police had already cordoned off the area, and we were unable to approach the place where the attorney general's body had been laid. However, according to information we received from the police and people who were looking after the body, the attorney general's body had many bullet holes in the chest and head.

[Mejia] Was he shot when he was kidnapped, or did this happen later on? There are rumors that he was executed.

[Sierra] This morning, we heard a report at the airport to the effect that the attorney general apparently had been slightly wounded when the kidnappers clashed with his bodyguards. Some say that the attorney general received bullet wounds afterward. This must be the case, because the shots that appear in his chest and head indicate that he was murdered later on. [passage omitted]

[Mejia] On this farm located in El Retiro municipality, only 37 km from Medellin, Andres Pastrana was miraculously rescued when five policemen were carrying out a special operation to find Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos. A week ago, on Monday, at 1930, Pastrana was taken from his campaign headquarters by 18 heavily armed men who are said to belong to the M-19. [passage omitted]

A few blocks away, near 39th Street and 17th Avenue, Pastrana was moved to the trunk of another car where he traveled for more than an hour with a heavily armed man. At that time, his kidnappers told him that he would be taken by helicopter the following day to his final place of detention.

[Begin Pastrana recording] At that moment, I started to wonder about the true identity of my captors, because I did not think that the guerrillas were sufficiently organized to have helicopters. [end recording]

[Mejia] The helicopter took Andres Pastrana to this farm at El Retiro. Here Pastrana confirmed his suspicions. His captors were part of the group that call themselves the extraditables. His kidnapping was only part of the operation. Other victims had been chosen. The kidnapping of Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos was part of the program.

[Begin recording] [Pastrana] I knew that he was going to be kidnapped.

[Reporter] Did you watch television? [Pastrana is not heard to respond]

[Reporter] Did they tell you they were going to kidnap him?

[Pastrana] They said they were going to kidnap him.

[Reporter] Were you told anything?

[Pastrana] No. Basically, they are opposed to extradition. This is the name of the group—the extraditables. They said: We do not want any more Colombians extradited; we do not care if we are sentenced here to 20 or 30 years. [end recording]

[Mejia] It was precisely the kidnapping of the attorney general that led to Pastrana's freedom.

Barco Condemns Hoyos Murder

PA260425 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 0310 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Statement to the nation by President Virgilio Barco from the Inravision Studios in Bogota on 25 January—recorded]

[Text] Compatriots: The Colombian Government and people and the entire world received the news of the kidnapping and cowardly assassination of Attorney General Dr Carlos Mauro Hoyos with indignation and shock. This happened while the country was noting, with justified satisfaction and happiness, Dr Andres Pastrana's return to Bogota.

Treacherous murder and kidnapping are perhaps the most infamous and cruel of crimes. They are the recourse of those who want to subdue the nation and submerge it in pessimism and uncertainty. I want to say to all the criminals who want to frighten and subdue Colombia that terrorism and organized crime cannot intimidate us. We will not yield to vile blackmail and infamous threats.

The government and all of Colombian society condemn this criminal act against all Colombians. The government and all of society have paid a very high price for the respect we have for the legal framework and the rule of law. We have this respect because we know the law is the best guarantee against arbitrary actions and abuses.

Despite this, some insist on resorting to violent, inhuman, and merciless methods, which removes all credibility from the proposals of those who claim they would gladly submit to Colombian courts and Colombian law.

If all the political and social forces remain united in defense of the most cherished values of law and democracy, we will be able to build a new Colombia. I am not asking for support for a particular government program. I am calling for a national crusade in defense of the future of all Colombians: our future and that of our children.

In situations of anguish, such as the one we are now experiencing and have experienced in the past, there are always voices calling for sensationalistic solutions that probably only lead to abuses. These abuses reflect a loss of confidence in our institutions. In such circumstances, the government must respond firmly but calmly. This is what we have done.

The vile assassination of the attorney general and other recent acts of violence have a clear meaning. All of Colombian society has been challenged. For this reason, everyone—the government; the citizens; progovernment and opposition parties; the executive, legislative, and judicial branches; professional associations and labor unions; the press, radio, and television; the rich and the poor; and workers, peasants, businessmen, and landowners—all of us, I repeat, must respond to the challenge.

We would be mistaken if we were not aware of our institutions' deficiencies. It would be an even bigger mistake, however, not to recognize our abilities, not to use our forces decisively, and or to allow ourselves to become blinded by pessimism and not see the clear horizon to which we can walk together.

The cowardliness of those who resort to kidnapping and assassination to intimidate the nation contrasts with the courage of those policemen and military personnel who risk their lives to protect us and who even offer themselves as hostages to save the lives of those who have been kidnapped.

We are not frightened by treacherous ambushes, powerful weapons, or the organization of the enemies. They have demonstrated that wisdom and prudence are not incompatible with the efficient fulfillment of duty.

The police and military, therefore, are an example to those who abuse the public with alarmism, who possess a defeatist attitude, or who want to ignore the institutions of our democracy, to which we owe our freedom.

I ask those who are frightened and distressed to actively cooperate with the authorities with the same hope and determination with which we have behaved at this difficult hour, so Colombia can progress toward tranquillity, security, social justice, and progress.

Let doubts and authoritarian temptations remain behind. We trust the balanced strength of the institutions and the state organizations. Let us have faith in the path of the law and our democracy. Let this faith encourage our solidarity against those who wish to impose violence on us, to end life and freedom, and to establish the survival of the fittest.

The Council of Ministers will take the necessary and relevant measures.

Carlos Mauro Hoyos has gone to occupy a place of honor among Colombia's greatest citizens. He was born in a municipality of southeast Antioquia. He was a member of a family that, like many others, is hard-working, united, and honest.

He was always known for his honest stand, and for this reason, the Chamber of Representatives considered him one of its most outstanding spokesmen. It enthusiastically elected him attorney general, and very soon the nation witnessed his independent nature and his adherence to strict norms of conduct.

The Conservative Party's national leadership recognized this in a patriotic declaration this morning. He was an unselfish friend. His family knows we all share their great pain. Carlos Mauro Hoyos is an example of courage and dedication for our youth. The fatherland will always remember him.

Happy events cannot make us forget the magnitude of the horrendous crime committed against a person who is one of the pillars of our institutions, or make us forget the immense task we all have ahead. Let no one lower his guard. The solidarity that has united the country must increase and be expressed in every way possible. At this crucial moment, I want all Colombians to be convinced that with the nation's solidarity and support, we will continue the struggle against organized crime and subversion. In this way, we will defeat those who intend to destabilize our institutions so that their criminal intentions could prevail.

Good night.

Further on Pastrana Kidnapping, Release
PA251601 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1503 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Bogota, 25 Jan (DPA)—With the public statement of the drug traffickers and the reply from the family of the kidnap victim, the kidnapping of Andres Pastrana Arango, opposition Social Conservative candidate for Bogota mayor, has taken a new turn in the last few hours.

The two statements came just a few hours before presumed mafia members kidnapped Colombian Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos in Medellin this morning in an action in which two of his bodyguards were killed.

The so-called "Brothers Pabon Jatter" command of drug traffickers issued a communique claiming responsibility for the kidnapping of Pastrana Arango and offering a list of possible intermediaries to negotiate his release. The list is headed by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, who has received the Nobel Prize for literature.

In the communique, the "drug traffickers" state that the Pastrana Arango family broke "the agreement" by publicly disclosing on Friday who was responsible for the kidnapping. They also state they are against any mediation by Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, "because although we deeply respect the Catholic Church and its representatives, we do not know whether or not the cardinal has opposed Colombians' being turned over to the United States."

The list of possible mediators includes journalists, writers, and lawyers.

The Pastrana family replied by proposing as mediator well-known journalist Enrique Santos Calderon, who works for Bogota's EL TIEMPO and is included in the kidnappers' list.

The brothers Said and Ricardo Pabon Jatter are among the 18 drug traffickers who have been extradited to the United States and are in prison there.

Pastrana Arango, 34-year-old son of former President Misael Pastrana Borrero, was kidnapped on 18 January by men who forced him out of his political headquarters.

Pastrana Arango Found Unharmed

PA251753 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1741 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] This is a last-minute report: The Antioquia Department police have Andres Pastrana Arango safe and sound. The Conservative Party candidate for Bogota mayor was found this morning at a farm in El Retiro, Antioquia Department.

A police command searching for the kidnapped Colombian attorney general found Andres Pastrana Arango, handcuffed but safe and sound, at a farm in El Retiro, Antioquia. He is now being taken to Medellin.

Pastrana Speaks With Barco

PA252117 Paris AFP in Spanish 1930 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 25 Jan (AFP)—Andres Pastrana, opposition candidate for mayor of Bogota, is in perfect health following his rescue by police today.

Andres Pastrana, 34, received a telephone call in the town of El Retiro from Colombian President Virgilio Barco, to whom he tearfully said, "thank you very much, Mr President."

The conversation between Barco and Pastrana took place through Bogota's privately owned RCN [Radio Cadena Nacional] station, which broke the dramatic story at approximately 1800 GMT today. Fifteen other Colombian radio stations joined the network.

Barco—who was heading a special cabinet meeting to study public order in the country following this morning's kidnapping of Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos—said he was very happy.

Former President Misael Pastrana Borrero (1970-1974), Andres' father, also spoke with his son.

Pastrana briefly recounted his kidnapping to RCN.

He said that when the kidnappers forced him out of his Bogota office on 18 January, "they pointed a gun that was so big that I thought it was a joke."

Pastrana was rescued today at approximately 1630 GMT.

The kidnappers, allegedly from a group that calls itself the "extraditables," abandoned Pastrana when they noticed that the peasant's house where they were hiding in northeastern Antioquia Province had been surrounded by the police.

"I was taking a shower," Pastrana said, very excitedly.

Pastrana said that when the kidnappers noticed the presence of some 5,000 policemen searching for Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos, who was kidnapped at dawn today, "they fled in disarray."

"How are you, my love?" Andres Pastrana said to his wife, Nora.

Pastrana said he had been taken from Bogota by helicopter on Tuesday and was given some books and a logbook.

He added that he had a cordial relationship with his kidnappers, and admitted that they "treated me very well. We had no problems."

He ruled out the possibility of his kidnappers being left-wing M-19 guerrillas, which is the same group that attacked the Palace of Justice in November 1985. Andres Pastrana's comments on RCN lasted 1 and 1/2 hours.

"I just received my papers, so I will be able to vote," Pastrana said. According to recent polls in Bogota, Pastrana's position as a candidate for mayor of Bogota has improved.

He said that his kidnappers wanted to speak with the government about the extraditions.

Pastrana's rescue seemed to unite the country, despite the concern [words indistinct] taken to Medellin, he said that he would travel to Spain to receive the king of Spain's journalism award.

Pastrana received the prize for the 1987 television series "The Punishment of the Gods," which shows how drug trafficking between Colombia and the United States takes place.

The prize will be presented on Thursday in Madrid.

"I will continue as if nothing had happened. We are going to rebuild Colombia," the young politician said. Tomorrow he will resume his activities for the March mayoral elections.

Uruguay

Cuban Foreign Minister Begins 'Official' Visit

PY251117 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca arrived in our country a few hours ago on an official visit. He will meet with Vice President Enrique Tarigo and President Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

Malierca was welcomed at Carrasco airport by Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias. The Cuban foreign minister praised Uruguayan efforts for peace in Central America.

Tomorrow the visiting foreign minister will visit the ALADI offices. Malmierca will today visit the Uruguayan Congress, where a special session is scheduled.

Discusses Ties, Peace Process

PY251759 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Today at noon, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca stated that Cuba wants to increase trade with Uruguay. Malmierca told El Espectador that he intends to discuss with Uruguayan officials the Central American situation and Uruguayan efforts to attain peace in the region. He commented that he will also review Latin American integration and Uruguayan efforts toward this end.

[Begin recording] [Malmierca] We intend to discuss the main international issues. Of course, we will especially review [word indistinct] Latin American integration. We will additionally explore strengthening our bilateral relations.

[Unidentified reporter] What about concrete trade measures?

[Malmierca] Well, we are still working on this. The present volume of trade is small, but we believe it could increase. [Passage indistinct] concrete proposal.

[Reporter] It was announced some time ago that Cuba would receive Uruguayan patients with high-risk illnesses. Has anything been decided on this?

[Malmierca] We think we have made satisfactory medical advances in Cuba. We have good public health services, and we have offered these services to other Latin American countries. I cannot say we have made a concrete or specific decision on this issue, but we have expressed our interest in assisting with (?blood and medicine).

[Reporter] Do you think the Cental American situation has improved?

[Malmierca] We believe that Nicaragua and the Central American countries are becoming increasingly interested in finding a solution to the problem. However, we regret the United States' interfering and aggressive attitude toward Nicaragua. [end recording]

Strike Leaves Montevideo Port 'Paralyzed'

PY221427 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0830 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] The most important event in the country is the situation in Montevideo port, which is currently being paralyzed by a strike. Losses in revenue are estimated at $2 million a day.

Because Uruguayan foreign trade is affected by it, the government will implement measures against the strike, which is now in its 2d day. The government will also review the operating procedures of the port.

Minister of Agriculture Pedro Bonino told Radio Carve that potato production is in danger because a shipment of potato seeds has not been unloaded from a ship, and that if they are not unloaded soon, they may rot.

This morning at 0700, port workers will meet to evaluate the situation.